

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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In Memoriam: Thomas H. Kent

Carl J. Bendorf



Thomas H. Kent. Photo courtesy Judy A. Putney

Tom Kent passed away on 21 November 2020 in Iowa City. During his seven decades as a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Tom's contributions to the IOU and the study of birds and birding in Iowa were enormous.

In May 1949, Tom and his father, Fred W. Kent, attended their first IOU meeting at McGregor, seeing one of the original nesting Peregrine Falcons along the Mississippi palisades. At the meeting, Al Berkowitz handed out sample checklists with a weekly format. Beginning then, every Sunday night the Kents recorded the birds they had seen the previous week around eastern Iowa.

Bob Vane's 1949 movies of a nesting Least Bittern at Swan Lake near Iowa City intrigued Tom. In 1951, 17-year-old Tom loaded his bulky photo equipment into a 1934 Dodge touring car for nearly

25 separate trips to the lake. Some photos required him to lie motionless in the bottom of a canoe for up to an hour gripping the shutter release while waiting for a bird to return to the nest. The resulting article was the first of Tom's many in *Iowa Bird Life* (Kent 1951).

In 1974, Tom and his father summarized 25 years of their weekly checklists in *Birding in Eastern Iowa*, which included many of their photos.

In 1979, Tom was appointed editor of the field reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*. He revised the report format to make data more readable and consistent and also authored/co-authored more than 30 seasonal reports over the next two decades. During the 1980s, he pioneered the entry of field report data into a personal computer database of his own design to aid in the quarterly compilation of hundreds of records from dozens of contributors.

Also in 1979, Tom was appointed to the IOU checklist committee (later Records Committee) and served as secretary from 1980 to 1989 and 1991 to 1999. He initiated and led the research of every known record of accidental species in Iowa prior to 1980 and also established the first organizational archive of evidence to support accidental species. Tom served on the Records Committee for a total of 26 years through 2005.

Tom took over as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* from Pete Peterson in 1986 and

over the next three years introduced the use of the personal computer to produce camera-ready copy, changed the covers from drawings to photographs, and upgraded peer review and editorial controls.

In 1984, Tom co-authored *Iowa Birds* (Dinsmore et al. 1984), the first comprehensive annotated list of Iowa birds in fifty years. Twelve years later, Tom was co-author (with Jim Dinsmore) of *Birds in Iowa*, an updated annotation (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). Finally, in 2012, Tom published *Annotated References to Iowa Birds Prior to 1900* (Kent 2012).

Tom was a frequent speaker as well as regular attendee at IOU spring and fall meetings and was well-known among the Iowa birding community.

Starting with his 1951 Least Bittern account, Tom contributed more than one hundred articles and notes to *Iowa Bird Life* over six decades covering a wide variety of topics including:

- Kent, T. H., N. S. Halmi, and T. K. Shires. 1979. How Many Species of Birds Can Be Seen in Iowa in One Year? *Iowa Bird Life* 49:3–8. Note: In 1992, Tom became the first Iowa birder to see 300 species in the state in a year.
- Kent, T. H., and T. K. Shires. 1979. Greater Scaup in Iowa – A Challenge. *Iowa Bird Life* 49:35–39.
- Kent, T. H., and M. Newlon. 1980. Speciation of Dowitchers in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 50:59–68.
- Kent, T. H. 1985. When Is a Bird in Iowa? *Iowa Bird Life* 55:79–80.
- Kent, T. H. 1987. Most Wanted Iowa Birds. *Iowa Bird Life* 57:11.
- Kent, T. H. 1988. Mapping Vagrants. *Iowa Bird Life* 58:101–105.
- Kent, T. H. 1991. A County Big Year. *Iowa Bird Life* 61:65–68. Note: This article was a huge influence on county birding in Iowa and was later reprinted in *The Loon*, journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union whose editor lauded it as a model of clarity and method.
- Kent, T. H. 1993. Record Keeping and Reporting by Iowa Birders. *Iowa Bird Life* 63:64–68.
- Kent, T. H. 1999. Birds and Birding in Iowa 1949–1999. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:109–116.

In recognition of Tom's great interest in early Iowa ornithology, he was named History Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* in 2002, a position he held until 2016. During this period he contributed nearly twenty more articles (some co-authored with his daughter, Judy Putney) including:

- Kent, T. H. 2003. History of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. *Iowa Bird Life* 73:112–119.
- Kent, T. H. 2003. Lewis and Clark: First documenters of Iowa's Avifauna. *Iowa Bird Life* 73:67–74.
- Kent, T. H. 2008. Eskimo Curlew Records from Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 78:149–155.

- Kent, T. H. 2009. Paul Bartsch: Biography and Iowa Bird Records. *Iowa Bird Life* 79:114–120.
- Kent, T. H. 2010. Bird Records of the Long Expedition, 1819–1820, along the Missouri River in Iowa and Nebraska. *Iowa Bird Life* 80:122–127.
- Kent, T. H., and J. A. Putney. 2014. First Dates of Iowa Birds. *Iowa Bird Life* 84:1–15.

In 2014, Tom received the Ludlow Griscom Award for Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology presented by the American Birding Association. Previous recipients of this award include Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler Robbins, Kenn Kaufman, and fellow IOU member, Jim Dinsmore. The following is excerpted from the nominating letter submitted by Carl Bendorf:

For many decades, Tom has been perhaps the most prominent role model and leader by example of the discovery and documentation of birds in Iowa. He has birded every corner of the state and is well-known as a very careful field birder. His rigorous methods and dogged determination have inspired multiple generations of Iowa birders to find and share information about Iowa birds. Whether in the field, at a bird club meeting, or by phone/email, Tom has always been willing to share his knowledge and provide encouragement to the many birders he encountered and mentored over the years. A seat in Tom's car during field trips or Christmas Bird Counts was always a coveted spot. Tom was my own primary birding mentor starting in the late 1970s. I will never be able to repay Tom for his inspiration and encouragement over the years.

Thomas Hugh Kent was born on 17 August 1934 in Iowa City, Iowa to Frederick W. Kent and Clara (Hartman) Kent. He met Ann Laurel Johnson on a blind date and they were married on 22 December 1957. Married for 47 years, they raised their family in Iowa City. Tom was proud of his three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tom attended University Schools (K through 12) and the University of Iowa with degrees in Liberal Arts and Medicine. After medical school he did an internship in Indianapolis, Indiana, residency in pathology at the University of Iowa, and military service at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

Tom was Professor of Pathology at the University of Iowa from 1966 to 1995, where his major interests were gastrointestinal pathology and medical education. He was a pioneer in medical education, developing a case method for learning pathology, self-paced learning, programmed texts, mastery learning strategy, and computer testing systems. He founded the Group for Research in Pathology Education and directed it for 20 years.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dinsmore, J.J., T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Petersen, and D. M. Roosa. 1984. Iowa Birds. Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames, Iowa. 356 pp.
- Kent, T. H. 1951. The Least Bitterns of Swan Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 21:58–61.
- Kent, T. H., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. Birds in Iowa. Privately published, Iowa City and Ames, 391 pp.
- Kent, T. H., and D. McCaffrey. 2012. Annotated references to Iowa birds prior to 1900 updated from Bartsch (1899). Privately published, Iowa City, 122 pp.

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Clinton County Breeding Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks

James McCoy

Iowa's second confirmed breeding record of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was reported by Mark Roberts, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Clinton County Conservation Board, who spotted a pair of adults with 9 offspring on 7 October 2020 and reported it on eBird. The birds were seen on the



Figure 1. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Grand Mound sewage ponds, Clinton, 12 October 2020. Photograph by James McCoy, Iowa City, IA.

sewage ponds south of Grand Mound in Clinton County. The lagoons are surrounded with coarse fill rock and dried weeds extensive enough to provide good cover. The three sewage lagoons are fenced off with no trespassing signs, but the nearest lagoon to the road is in complete view and the more

westerly lagoons can be partially seen from the road. Sheep are periodically grazed on the dikes between the lagoons and in fact Mark Roberts notes they were released onto the area later the same day he first saw the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. The lagoons are bordered on the north by corn fields with the highway on the east and a secondary road to the south. The city yard waste

dump site is in the southwest corner with mounds of brush, logs, and grass clippings. There is not a tree within a quarter mile.

I visited the site on 12 October at 11:30 a.m. It was a gray, very windy, hang-onto-your-scope-or-it's-going-over day. On arriving at the site no Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen. There were other waterfowl on the more western lagoons including Canada Geese, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, and Ruddy Ducks. After 5–10 minutes there was movement on the bank and a single adult whistling-duck came into view on the lagoon closest to the road. After I walked to the far end of the lagoon and back, both adults and 7 ducklings came out of the vegetation and swam out into that eastern lagoon (Figure 1).

Mark Roberts reports seeing the brood over about 10 days. The later sightings had fewer ducklings. We discussed what might have happened to them. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks can't fly until age 8-9 weeks (Cain 1968). He noted there are a lot of snapping turtles in those lagoons. He saw big snapping turtles there at the time of the whistling-duck sighting. There is also a small stream near the lagoons that drains into the Wapsipinicon and one could hope the whistling-ducks went there.

I returned to the site on 25 October 2020 and in a 20-minute search, did not see any remaining Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, adults or offspring.

Mark also notes a report of a possible breeding pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks fairly close by in August. They were in a Wood Duck box thirty-five miles to the northwest near Oxford Junction. They disappeared after a short time. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck eggs hatch after 25-30 days (Bolen 1967). It's possible this was the same pair in another breeding attempt.

This breeding record follows closely behind the first breeding record of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Iowa, in Mills County in 2019 (Silcock 2020).

LITERATURE CITED

- Bolen, E. G. 1967. The ecology of the Black-bellied Tree Duck in southern Texas. Ph.D. thesis, Utah State Univ., Logan.
- Cain, B. W. 1968. Growth and plumage development of the Black-bellied Tree Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (Linnaeus). Master's Thesis, Texas A&I Univ., Kingsville.
- Silcock, R. 2020. First Iowa Breeding Record of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. *Iowa Bird Life* 90:1–3.

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Lesser Goldfinch in Des Moines County

Chuck Fuller

On Saturday, 21 November 2020, I was settled in at home to watch a football game when I got a call from a fellow birder who said she had a friend call to say she had a “strange bird” coming to her feeder in Burlington. Having learned from experience not to dismiss any possible rarity, I decided to “check



Figure 1. Lesser Goldfinch, Burlington, Des Moines, 22 November 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

it out.” That Saturday the bird was coming to her feeder frequently. She described the bird as having a black cap and yellow body. I said I would be right over. There was no mention of the size of the bird. Since in the previous week there were several sightings of Evening Grosbeaks, I thought this might be a possibility. The bird appeared within 10 minutes of my arrival, and it was smaller than the numerous Pine Siskins on the feeder and on the ground. The bird had a black cap and dark olive-green back (Figure 1). In addition to the white wing bars, the bird had a distinctive white patch at the base of the primaries. The Lesser Goldfinch is a Southwestern U. S. and Mexico resident. We spend the month of February in Arizona. I have seen the Lesser Goldfinch in all plumages, and this was a male Lesser Goldfinch. I immediately called my brother Jim, and he put it on the IA-Birds listserv. On that Saturday a good number of Iowa birders were fortunate to observe only the second sighting of a Lesser Goldfinch in our state. Many people showed up starting early Sunday morning with the bird making frequent appearances into the afternoon. Paul Roisen drove seven plus hours and was the last person to see the bird as it did not come back the next day.

Many thanks go to Bev and Duane Sherbondy, who graciously welcomed birders into their yard for this amazing Iowa sighting.

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Roseate Spoonbill at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area

Mark Brown

On 10 August 2018, Jim Forde found a juvenile Roseate Spoonbill along Amana Road at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Johnson County. It was seen on the main pool looking south from the DNR Headquarters parking lot on Amana Road. Nearly two years later, on the morning of 4 August 2020, Jim again found a juvenile Roseate Spoonbill at the exact same spot! He reported that it flew west and out of sight, but there was a presumption that it would return to roost sometime in the evening. Jim and I were among seven birders that evening that showed up to the DNR parking lot hoping for its return. Birds were abundant on the main pool from this spot. There were seven species of shorebirds, pelicans in the thousands, and waders coming in by the dozens from the west. However, after forty minutes or so, the spoonbill had not yet returned, so Jim decided to venture west to see if he could find it hanging out elsewhere. Sure enough, about ten minutes later, Jim returned to the DNR lot and yelled from the car window, “FOLLOW ME!” We all headed about a mile west on Amana Road and were able to see the relocated bird hanging out with a bunch of egrets and herons. It was about 200 yards out, but being a large pink wader, we were all able to get decent looks through spotting scopes and even obtain some usable documentation photos.

Although this bird was never easy to pin down, it was seen off and on between the two roosting locations along Amana Road for the next two weeks. It was last seen flying towards the southwest on the morning of 18 August. This 15-day span makes this the longest known visit by a Roseate Spoonbill to the state of Iowa. Unlike the 2018 bird, which was part of a notable vagrancy pattern to the upper Midwest and New England, the 2020 bird was an outlier. This was the most northerly record of the year in the Midwest, with a summer bird in New Brunswick being the only other to stray significantly north of its Gulf Coast range.

This is the sixth record of Roseate Spoonbill for Iowa. The five records are from Union Slough NWR, Kossuth County, 16 August 1960 (Burgess 1960), Waubonsie WA, Fremont County, 4–14 August 1997 (Dinsmore 1998), Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County, 5–8 September 2012 (McCecil 2013), Frazier’s Bend WA, Fremont County, 30 July–5 August 2014 (Dinsmore and Lundy 2014), and Hawkeye WMA, Johnson County, 10–18 August 2018 (Caswell 2019).

LITERATURE CITED

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- Caswell, B. 2019. Field Reports—Fall 2018. *Iowa Bird Life* 89:15–43.

- Dinsmore, S. J. 1998. Roseate Spoonbill in southwestern Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 68:36–137.
- Dinsmore, S. J., and Lundy, C. W. 2014. Roseate Spoonbill in Fremont County. *Iowa Bird Life* 84:170–71.
- McCecil, J. 2013. Roseate Spoonbill at Saylorville Reservoir. *Iowa Bird Life* 83: 36–37.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—Linda Rudolph

Stuart Sparkman



Linda Rudolph, Lyon Mountain, NY, July 2020. Photograph by Liz Rudolph, Fort Worth, TX.

Meet an Iowa birder who seeks to broaden our knowledge of bird life and distribution in lesser-visited Iowa counties by setting out with binoculars and camera to explore unfamiliar and unheralded birding sites: Coralville's Linda Rudolph. A retired pharmacist, Linda is an active birder who loves to hike and explore the natural world. She enjoys travel, having visited other countries for

birding and is currently making about two such trips per year. She asserts that the anticipation of an exciting bird trip can be as much or more fun than the trip itself, something that many IOU members have no doubt discovered themselves.

Linda's interest in birds began in childhood, when she first noticed the large wings and ungainly legs of the charismatic White Storks that would nest on neighborhood houses when she lived in Morocco. During summers while in college, she served on the staff at a boys and girls camp on a lake in upstate New York's Adirondack Mountains, near a summer cabin her great-great-grandfather had built. The founder of the camp was conservationist Fay Welch, a one-time member of National Audubon Society's Board of Di-

rectors and a long-time friend of Linda's family, who became her first birding mentor. These camp experiences were instrumental in establishing a lifelong love of birds. Years later Linda moved to Iowa City and found a birding companion in Bill Scheible, whom she says taught her to be a birder. According to Bill, "Linda embodies the true essence of birding... forgoing the obsessive chase for pure enjoyment of the birds."

Linda has been a member of IOU since 2004, and has served on the Board of Directors. She currently serves with Ann Johnson and Rick Hollis as an administrator of IA-Bird, the IOU's email list. Linda appreciates the IOU and is thankful for the many active members who work so hard to make this organization a welcoming home for those who love Iowa's avian heritage. She enjoys being a member of the Iowa City Bird Club and participates in Christmas Bird Counts each year. Also, Linda is an avid eBirder, using the mobile application to facilitate birding in unfamiliar sites of many different counties in pursuit of the aforementioned goal: to further our particular knowledge of bird life in under-visited parts of our state.

Linda's favorite local birding site is Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, of which she is fortunate to live in close proximity. A favorite distant birding site was New Zealand, to which she took her first international birding trip with a group guided by Ross Silcock. She describes Ross as a great leader, and will never forget the wonderful birds and the natural beauty of this southern paradise. Linda is a great admirer of raptors, particularly Broad-winged Hawks, and describes the annual Grammer Grove fall hawk watch as the highlight of her birding year.

A New Year's resolution for Linda in 2020 has been to increase the number of eBird-listed species of five different Johnson County hotspots that she considers to be under-birded. One of these which has become special to her is Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, administered by Bur Oak Land Trust. Through multiple visits and with the help of a few others, Linda has increased the number of bird species on this site's list from 47 to 124 in this year alone. An early year visit on January 6 yielded an astonishing encounter with a Northern Waterthrush. Linda photographed and documented the bird, which was confirmed by experts and is the state's only January record of this species. Other goals of Linda include spending more time documenting fall raptor migration at Dubuque County's Mines of Spain Recreation Area, having seen 1376 individual Broad-winged Hawks during an autumn visit in 2018. She is also eager, as many of us are, for international travel to safely resume, and lists Chile, Thailand, and South Africa as favored future birding destinations. Says Linda, "I think of birding as an adventure. You never know what kind of experience you will have when you head out in the morning."

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Field Reports—Fall 2020

Brandon Caswell and Dean Hester



Dean Hester (left) and Brandon Caswell (right)

WEATHER

NOAA data ranked 2020 as the second hottest year on record for the planet, which sent 2019 to third. The hottest year on record still belongs to 2016. The Northern Hemisphere saw its hottest year on record at

2.3°F above the 20th Century average. Ten of the warmest years have occurred since 2005 with seven since 2014. In the contiguous United States, August was the third-warmest on record, while November was the fourth warmest.

August was ranked as the 3rd driest for that month in 148 years of state-wide records. Temperatures averaged 71.9°F or 0.4°F above normal, while precipitation totaled 1.15 inches or 3.05 inches below normal. Northwestern Iowa saw warmer temperatures whereas the rest of the state was near normal. The highest recorded temperature was 100°F on the 24th in Lake Park *Dickinson*, 18°F above normal. The lowest temperature of 22°F was on the 4th at Mason City *Cerro Gordo*, which was 17°F below normal. Deficits in precipitation of two to four inches were reported widely over the state, which only exacerbated drought conditions. Southeastern Iowa recorded deficits over four inches. Early August saw the onset of extreme drought conditions in west-central Iowa, which extended in all directions from this area over the month. Northeastern Iowa was also abnormally dry. About 99% of the state was in the abnormally dry (D0) to extreme drought (D3) category. Moderate to severe drought conditions covered 37%. On the 10th a derecho of epic proportions swept across Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. The highest winds were in eastern Iowa, which measured in excess of 126 mph. The highest estimated wind speed based on post-derecho damage was 140 mph.

September was slightly cooler than normal. Temperatures averaged 61.9°F or 1.3°F below normal, while precipitation totaled 4.06 inches or 0.68 inch above normal. Cooler temperatures were reported across eastern and southern Iowa. Northwestern Iowa reported near normal conditions. The highest recorded temperature was 96°F on the 6th at Spencer *Clay*, which was 18°F above normal. The lowest temperature of 35°F was on the 18th at Mason City *Cerro Gordo*, which was 12°F below normal. On the 8th many stations reported record low highs, breaking records from the late 1800s. Above average

rainfall was reported over much of the eastern two-thirds of Iowa with more than ten counties reporting at least four to six inches above average. The western side of the state still saw precipitation deficits. The driest conditions were in northwestern Iowa with two or more inches below normal. By the end of September moderate drought covered 24% of the state, while severe drought covered another 24%.

Both below average precipitation and temperatures were recorded in October. Temperatures averaged 46.0°F or 4.8°F below normal, while precipitation totaled 1.66 inches or 0.95 inch below normal. It was the 6th coldest October on record. Temperatures of three to six degrees below normal were reported across the state. The coldest conditions were found in northwestern Iowa. The highest recorded temperature was 88°F on the 9th at Ames *Story*, Red Oak *Montgomery*, and Shenandoah *Page*, which was 20°F above normal. The lowest temperature of 5°F was on the 27th at Estherville *Emmet*, which was 27°F below normal. One to two inch precipitation deficits were reported over much of Iowa. Eastern Iowa experienced wetter conditions with two or more inches above normal. The statewide average snowfall was 1.8 inches, which was 1.5 inches above average. Warmer and drier conditions that continued into early October led to severe drought expanding to about 30% of western Iowa (D2 to D3). During the third week of October colder than average temperatures and timely, widespread precipitation kept conditions stable. Drought and abnormally dry conditions were removed from eastern Iowa as persistent storms continued to track over the area with heavy rain and some snow.

Above average temperatures and below average precipitation were recorded in November. It was the 10th warmest November on record. Temperatures averaged 42.1°F or 5.5°F above normal, while precipitation totaled 1.88 inches or 0.17 of an inch below normal. Unseasonably warm, the month had positive temperature departures ranging from four to eight degrees statewide. The warmest conditions were in eastern Iowa. The highest recorded temperature was 81°F on the 3rd at Shenandoah *Page*, which was 24°F above normal. The lowest temperature was 2°F on the 13th at Estherville *Emmet*, which was 23°F below normal. Northeastern Iowa was drier, with precipitation deficits up to 1.50 inches. Southern Iowa saw above-normal totals. A band of positive departures was observed from western through north-central Iowa. The statewide average snowfall was 1.1 inches, 1.6 inches below average. Western Iowa experienced drought conditions through November. A D2 (severe drought) region covering 28% of western Iowa was adjacent to 4% D3 (extreme drought) in the northwestern corner. Overall, Iowa had D0 (abnormally dry) to D3 conditions covering 64% of the state. Southern and eastern Iowa experienced some wetter conditions which removed D0 conditions from the majority of the area, aside from a small part of extreme southeastern Iowa.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

It was a banner fall for sea duck migration. Central Iowa saw a dearth of sea ducks in the fall of 2019; however, this fall was different. Saylorville Res-

ervoir hosted a Harlequin Duck 16 Oct as well as all three scoter species on 24 Oct. Johnson County recorded all three scoter species over the season, which is not an annual occurrence.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources waterfowl surveys were cancelled due to the pandemic, so our understanding of the fall waterfowl migration in far northeastern Iowa is hindered.

One of the huge highlights of the fall was the Evening Grosbeak irruption, one of proportions not seen since 1985. It seemed to be about a month-long event, with most sightings in the eastern half of the state.

Most other finches irrupted in some capacity. Purple Finch made a bit earlier movement than usual. There was an outlier sighting on 12 Aug and sightings were steady after 30 Aug. Common Redpoll was detected in low numbers on 30 Oct in eastern Iowa, immediately followed the next day in central Iowa, with steady sightings through November. Red Crossbill was first detected in western Iowa 23 Sep and then by the end of October continued well in central Iowa through the end of the season. White-winged Crossbill was present from mid-November, mostly in select cemeteries in eastern and central Iowa. A couple reports of Pine Siskin in August were followed by steady reports from mid-September through the rest of the season. Even Lesser Goldfinch, the state's 2nd record, showed up in late November.

There seemed to be an unusually high number of Little Gull reports. There were five total reports, although it's possible that some were the same birds.

Gamebird populations saw an increase in pheasants (18%) compared to 2019, with the second highest harvest seen in a decade. Northern Bobwhite index was essentially unchanged from 2019 at 0.74 birds/route. This was below the 10-year average of 0.9 birds/route. Icy conditions over most of southern Iowa in January 2020 is probably to blame. Gray Partridge was 2.0 birds per 30 miles, showing upward trends in all regions except West Central, although no regional trends were statistically significant. Despite some good signs for Iowa gamebirds, the total habitat in Iowa is still trending downwards from a 2018 record-low assessment.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Fall 2020 produced a wealth of rare birds in Iowa. Unusual species in August included Mottled Duck, Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Little Gull, and Fish Crow. September saw two Little Gull reports, Western Tanager, Common Raven, and Red Knot. October saw the most rarities by far. These included two more Little Gull reports, two Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports, Harlequin Duck, Great Black-backed Gull, Red Phalarope, and one Evening Grosbeak report. November saw a Gyrfalcon, four more Evening Grosbeak reports, and the state's second record for Lesser Goldfinch.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **CP** = county park, **ELC** = environmental learning corridor,

GGHW = Grammer Grove hawk watch, **HP** = heritage park, **HHW** = Hitchcock hawk watch, **INHS** = Illinois Natural History Survey, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NC** = nature center, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SI** = slough, **SP** = state park, **SRA** = state recreation area, **Tr** = trail, **USFWS** = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **USNWR** = Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **W** = wetland, **WA** = wildlife area.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: The state's second breeding record was detected 7 Oct just south of Grand Mound *Clinton* with the last report on 14 Oct (MR, *JMc-ph, *WV-ph, JDM). One was at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 31 Oct (*DAS-ph, *TM-ph).

Snow Goose: The first detection at HHW *Pottawattamie* was 246 on 18 Oct (EJ). Some high counts were 860 on 26 Oct (EJ), 800 on 3 Nov (EJ), 3810 on 10 Nov (EJ), 600 on 12 Nov (EJ), 1250 on 28 Nov (EJ), and 29,310 on 29 Nov (EJ). The first report at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* was 9062 on 28 Oct, and numbers peaked at 13,664 on 17 Nov (USFWS).

Ross's Goose: High numbers included: 7 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Nov (RJT), 6 at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 6 Nov (DSi), 5 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 10 Nov, and 5 there the next day (EJ).

Greater White-fronted Goose: At HHW *Pottawattamie* the first was 206 on 14 Oct (EJ). A high of 9390 was there 18 Oct (EJ). At DeSoto NWR *Harrison* the first report was 4580 on 21 Oct (USFWS) and a high of 13,664 was there 17 Nov (USFWS). Other high numbers included about 200 on 17 Oct at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (BT), 400 on 17 Nov at Pool 18 *Louisa* (INHS), and 2000 on 26 Nov at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (LQ).

Cackling Goose: The high was 37 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Nov (AB). Another 35 were at Slater *Story* 14 Nov (AB). There were 28 on 25 Nov at Ada Hayden HP *Story* and 25 there the next day (AB).

Trumpeter Swan: Notable numbers throughout the state in early August, especially in northern Iowa, were a reflection of the record breeding throughout the summer. The largest concentration was 127 at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 7 Nov (BT), growing to 247 by 18 Nov (DH) and remaining over 200 through the end of November. There were 115 at Dunbar SI *Greene* 25 Nov (MTW), 111 north of Palo *Linn* 28 Nov (WV, BT), 155 near Mount Sterling *Van Buren* 28 Nov (CHa), 156 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 29 Nov (TM), and 33 at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 30 Nov (WO).

Tundra Swan: First fall observation was of 9 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct (AB, m.ob.). Not surprisingly, the largest concentration was along Red Oak Road *Allamakee* with 281 on 28 Oct (JFu, William Smith), growing to 635 at this location by 28 Nov (Barbara Duerksen). There were 42 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 7 Nov (DAS), 2 west of Ames *Boone* 8 Nov (EEO), one at Kiowa M *Sac* 21 Nov (DSi), and 48 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 29 Nov (TM).

Blue-winged Teal: Peak of migration was earliest September, but

numbers remained high through the month. There were 1100 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (AB), 1180 at Pool 19 *Lee* 2 Sep (INHS), 420 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 26 Sep (TJD), 870 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Sep (AB), and 200 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Sep (AB). The last notable count was 112 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 21 Oct (USFWS).

Northern Shoveler: In western Iowa, the high count at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* was 152 on 21 Oct (USFWS). Peak of migration in central Iowa was 700 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 25 Oct (RLC). The most along the Mississippi R was 1400 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 3 Nov (INHS).

Gadwall: First fall observation was 10 at Otter Creek M *Tama* 29 Aug (KVS, SCS). Peak of migration was near the end of October. There were 3000 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct, 3950 at Pool 18 *Des Moines*, 2630 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 28 Oct (INHS), and 1066 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 29 Oct (USFWS).

American Wigeon: First fall report was one at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 29 Aug (WO, SSP). Peak of migration was mostly mid-October to mid-November, with 60 at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* 11 Oct (TJD). There were 100 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 3 Nov (INHS) 30 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Nov (KVS, SCS) and 20 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 28 Nov (JG).

Mallard: At DeSoto NWR *Harrison*, Mallard numbers increased from 3625 on 21 Oct to 23,438 on 28 Oct. Numbers at DeSoto topped out at 42,564 on 12 Nov and remained around that amount into the early winter (USFWS). Numbers

increased to 17,100 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* on 9 Nov, staying around this number through November (INHS).

American Black Duck: Reported in 8 counties from mostly the central to eastern part of the state. The first fall report was 2 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* on 30 Oct (DAS).

MOTTLED DUCK: One continued at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1–2 Aug from a summer stay of 27–31 Jul (*SJD-ph, *CW-ph, *KVS, SCS, m.ob.).

Northern Pintail: First fall report was 3 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 26 Aug (MHB). There were 150 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Sep (AB). At DeSoto NWR *Harrison* the peak count was 6682 on 3 Nov (USFWS). There were 360 at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* 14 Oct, topping out at 530 at the location 13 Nov (CW). About 400 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 21 Oct (BCC). Numbers peaked at Pool 18 *Des Moines* with 3000 on 3 Nov (INHS).

Green-winged Teal: A couple large counts at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* were 5152 on 28 Oct and 7118 on 24 Nov (USFWS). There were 4100 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 28 Oct (INHS). Numbers at Pool 18 *Des Moines* grew to 6500 by 17 Nov (INHS). The same day 4300 were at Pool 19 *Lee* (INHS). Away from the major rivers, 338 were at L Macbride *Johnson* 7 Nov (MDR) and 2165 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Nov (AB).

Canvasback: First fall report was one on 11 Aug at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (TJD). Numbers began picking up at Pool 19 *Lee* with 4005 on 3 Nov (INHS). There were 5100 at Pool 19 *Lee* 17 Nov (INHS).

Redhead: First fall report was

one at USNWR *Kossuth* 14 Aug (JMc). There were 316 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Nov (BE) and 700 at Pool 19 *Lee* 3 Nov, growing to 1000 by 17 Nov (INHS).

Ring-necked Duck: There were 450 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 27 Oct (BCC), 4250 at Armour Dial Pond *Lee* 28 Oct, with 6200 there 2 Nov (TNJ), 2550 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 3 Nov, which grew to 3000 by 17 Nov (INHS), and 1000 at Pool 19 *Lee* the same day (INHS).

Greater Scaup: All: one at Sand L *Marshall* 24 Oct (TW, DWa), 2 at L&D 14 *Scott* 26 Oct (SMF), 2 at Coralville Res *Johnson* Oct 27 (BCC), 5 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Oct (RJT), one at Cedar L *Linn* 1 Nov (JE), 6 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (RLC), one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 21 Nov (NHB), as many as 3 at Cedar L *Linn* 24–30 Nov (BCC, m.ob.).

Lesser Scaup: There were 5900 at Pool 19 *Lee* and 2630 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 28 Oct (INHS), 24,205 at Pool 19 *Lee* 3 Nov, 15,100 there 9 Nov (INHS), and 33,600 there 17 Nov (INHS). In central Iowa, Saylorville Res *Polk* had 3100 on 17 Oct (BE), 3400 on 24 Oct (AB), and 1000 on 11 Nov (RLC).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: One was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 16 Oct (*AB, m.ob.).

Surf Scoter: All: 3 at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 2 Oct (LAS, ET), 2 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), one at Lost Island L SP *Palo Alto* 18 Oct (LAS), one at Clear Lake SP *Cerro Gordo* 19 Oct (RGo), one at Saylorville Res 24 Oct (AB), 2 at Sand L *Marshall* 24 Oct (ASp, TW), one at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson*

26 Oct (MHB), 3 at Cedar L *Linn* 26 Oct (JF), 3 at L&D 14 *Scott* 26 Oct (SMF), 4 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 30 Oct (DAS), one at Saylorville Res 31 Oct (AB), one at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* 2 Nov (GLV, RWR, RTo), 2 at Moore RA *Pocahontas* 3 Nov (JAN), 4 at Deere Dike 7 Nov (DAS), 2 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 11–14 Nov (DSi), up to 2 at Cedar L *Cerro Gordo* 10–13 Nov (BVL, RGo), one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Nov (JF), one at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 26 Nov (JF), and one at Cedar L *Linn* 27 Nov (JF, WV, JMc).

White-winged Scoter: All: one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 16 Oct (POR, JG, RJT), one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 18 Oct (BCC), 5–6 at Saylorville Res 24 Oct (JB, AB, KVS, SCS, m.ob.), 4 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 24 Oct (JG); 4 at L&D 11 *Dubuque* 27 Oct (DAS, TM), 2 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 28–29 Oct (DSi), 3 at Coralville Res 30 Oct (NBe, m.ob.), 2 at Saylorville Res 31 Oct (AB, JB, RJT), one at Red Rock Res 5 Nov (JF), 2 at Saylorville Res 11 Nov (JG, AB, RJC, CW), one at Grand Mound Lagoons *Clinton* 12–23 Nov (MR, m.ob.), one at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 13–21 Nov (RGo, BVL, MH, JK), one at Saylorville Res 13 Nov (AB), and one there 27 Nov (AB).

Black Scoter: All: 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct (AB, JB, RJT), 8 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 25 Oct (JG), 4 at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 25 Oct (WO, EEO), 2 at Saylorville Res 26 Oct (JG), one at Big Creek SP *Polk* 26 Oct (AB), 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 26 Oct (BVL), one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 27 Oct (BCC, m.ob.), one at Clear L 29 Oct (RGo), 3 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 30 Oct (DAS,

TM), one at Okoboji L *Dickinson* 31 Oct (LAS), one at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* 5–9 Nov (TJD, m.ob.), 2 at Big Creek SP 6 Nov (JB), one at Saylorville Res 11 Nov (AB, RLC, CW), one at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* 17 Nov (TNJ), 4 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 17–24 Nov (DSi), and one at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 21 Nov (ET).

Long-tailed Duck: All: one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Oct (RLC), one at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 29 Oct (RGo, BVL), one at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* 4 Nov (JTi), one at Saylorville Res 11 Nov (JG, m.ob.), up to 4 at the Saylorville Res 21–23 Nov (RJT, AB, JB), 3 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 26 Nov (ET, JTi), one at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* 28–29 Nov (WV, BCC), one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 29 Nov (JMc, m.ob.), 3 at Big Spirit L 30 Nov (LAS).

Bufflehead: First fall report was 2 at a private pond in Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* 12 Oct (Christian Fernandez). Peak number was 3600 at Pool 19 *Lee* 3 Nov (INHS).

Common Goldeneye: First fall report was 230 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 24 Oct (DAS). There were 300 at Pool 19 *Lee* 9 Nov and 350 there 17 Nov (INHS), 39 at L *Manawa Pottawattamie* 14 Nov (KH), and 155 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 28 Nov (JG).

Hooded Merganser: At Saylorville Res *Polk* there were around 115 from 1–14 Nov (KVS, SCS, RLC, DTh, AB) and 150 to 197 from 20–21 Nov (KVS, SCS, DTh).

Common Merganser: A rather early report was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 25 Aug (CW). One was at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 27 Oct (WO) and 440 were at Saylorville Res *Polk*

29 Nov (AB).

Red-breasted Merganser: First fall report was a female at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 20 Oct (BCC). There were 55 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Nov (AB).

Ruddy Duck: There were 1200 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Oct (RLC). Pool 19 *Lee* had 2330 on 28 Oct (INHS), 9615 on 3 Nov, and 10,000 on 9 Nov (INHS).

Northern Bobwhite: The DNR August Roadside Survey calculated a state index of 0.74 birds/route, which was essentially unchanged from 2019. Although not statistically significant, the southwest region reported the only increase.

Gray Partridge: The DNR August Roadside Survey reported 2.0 birds per 30 miles, which was statistically higher than 1.4 in 2019. The northeast, north central, and central regions reported the highest 2020 densities.

Ring-necked Pheasant: The DNR August Roadside Survey reported a statewide index of 20.2 birds/route, which was higher than the 17 birds/route estimated in 2019. There were 137 routes that showed increases, while 68 showed decreases. Only counts in the northeast and southeast were statistically higher than 2019.

Pied-billed Grebe: The most was 205 at Trumbull L *Clay* 22 Aug (DSi). The first migratory pulse was 127 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Sep (AB), with 103 there 20 Oct (AB). There were 62 at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* 29 Oct (LGR) and 52 at Big Creek SP *Polk* 7 Nov (KVS, SCS).

Horned Grebe: The first was one at Easter Lake P *Polk* 13 Sep

(Dan Versaw). There were 22 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 24 Oct (KH) and up to 26 at Coralville Res Johnson 24–27 Oct (JBo, MHB).

Red-necked Grebe: Five were at Jemmerson Sl *Dickinson* 7 Aug (DyO). The first migrant was one molting adult 2 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). There were up to 2 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 25–27 Oct (JF, BCC, m.ob.). One was at Racoon River P *Polk* 25–26 Oct (AB, m.ob.). Up to 2 were at Big Creek SP *Polk* 27 Oct (DTh, DCH). One was at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 29 Oct to 5 Nov (WO, m.ob.). Two different individuals were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Oct and 1 Nov (AB). One was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 31 Oct (JG) and 17 Nov (JF). One was reported at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* 15 Nov (CSc) and 30 Nov (KS).

Eared Grebe: The most was 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Sep (AB). One was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 10 Oct (JF, BCC). The last was one at Big Creek SP *Polk* 26 Nov (AB).

Western Grebe: One was at Trumbull L *Clay* 4 Aug (LAS). Away from breeding grounds, 2 were at South Twin L *Calhoun* 19 Oct (JAN). Up to 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct to 17 Nov (AB, m.ob.) and one was at Big Creek SP *Polk* 27 Oct to 11 Nov (RLC, DCH, CW, m.ob.). One was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 27–30 Oct (JH, m.ob.) and two were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (RGo). One was at McKinley P *Union* 3–8 Nov (SLo, m.ob.), one was at Beacon Lane Pond *Pottawattamie* 4 Nov (KH), two were at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* 7–19 Nov (TNJ, m.ob.), one was at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 14 Nov (KH), and

one was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 21 Nov (TGS).

White-winged Dove: As early as 8 April 2020, a pair was seen at a residence in Callender *Webster* (Bonnie Porter *vide* BCC). The pair was seen up to early November, with eBird reports from 1 Aug to 3 Oct (RJT, BCC, m.ob.). One was last seen 4 Dec 2020 (Bonnie Porter-ph).



White-winged Dove, Calendar, Webster, 15 August 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The last was one at Tedesco ELC *Story* 8 Oct (SSP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The two latest were one at HHW *Pottawattamie* 23 Sep (EJ) and one at Viking L SP *Montgomery* 24 Sep (SLo).

Common Nighthawk: There were 100 at Deep Lakes P *Musca-*



Common Nighthawk, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 23 August 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

tine 13 Sep (SMF), 117 over Burlington *Des Moines* 16 Sep (BWi), and 76 over Jefferson *Greene* 20 Sep (MTW). The last was one at Cone M *Louisa* 13 Oct (Paul Brooks).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: The last report was of 2 near Lamoni *Decatur* 24 Sep (Selena Birgit Kiser).

Chimney Swift: There were up to 216 in Denver *Bremer* 2–6 Sep (KCR), 80 in Burlington *Des Moines* 17 Sep (BWi), and 50 at Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook *Scott* 26 Sep (SN). The last were 2 in West *Des Moines Polk* (RJT), 2 at the HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ), and 5 at Storm L *Buena Vista* (Jacob Sellers), all on 11 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The last was one in a backyard *Warren* 24 Oct (JG).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: A continuing adult male from late July was observed at a rural private residence near Rippey *Greene* 1–3 Aug (*CR-ph, *CW-ph, *DyO-ph).

King Rail: A secretive bird responded to tape calls 15–16 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Virginia Rail: The last was one at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (BBu-ph, DDo, STh).

Sora: The last was one at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 7 Nov (MR).

Common Gallinule: There were still 7 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 21 Sep (TM). The last was one at Errington M *Polk* 30 Sep (TJD).

American Coot: Some high counts included 2500 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 12 Oct (SMF), 2500 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 13 Oct (JMc), 2250 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 20 Oct (BCC), 5000 west of Pella *Marion* 24 Oct (Jack Johnson), 4300 at

Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct (AB), 2500 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 24 Oct (KH), 3000 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 24 Oct (TM). The high was 10,000 at Rice L *Winnebago* 28 Oct (BBu, DDo, STh).

Yellow Rail: no reports

Sandhill Crane: Up to 60 were at Pool SI *Allamakee* 24 Oct to 1 Nov (Dave Wheeler, Lisa Weeks, Renner Anderson). There were up to 70 at Cone M *Louisa* 8–28 Nov (JMc, DGu). The high was 109 at New Albin *Allamakee* 13 Nov (BR) and up to 68 were at Green Island WA *Jackson* 22–29 Nov (TM).

Black-necked Stilt: All: up to 5 were still around from the summer at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1–6 Aug (m.ob.), up to 2 were at USNWR *Kossuth* 30 Aug–13 Sep (m.ob.).

American Avocet: High count was 25 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (FJ). There were 22 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 14 Oct (BCC, JMc, JF) and 19 at Saylorville Res *Polk* the same day (RJT, TJD). There were 22 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Oct (AB). The last report was one at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* that stayed 27–28 Oct (JH, LGR, LQ).

Black-bellied Plover: There were 5 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 19 Sep (SHo), 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Sep (AB), 6 at Sandhill L *Woodbury* 7 Nov (JP), and 4 at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* 7 Nov (TNJ). The latest was one at Storm L *Buena Vista* 9 Nov (DSi).

American Golden-Plover: There were 39 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Sep (JG), 39 in rural *Boone* 20 Sep (DCH), 30 Saylorville Res *Polk* 25 Sep (AB) and 52 at the same location 28 Sep (AB), 19 at Trumbull

L Clay 2 Oct (LAS), 45 at USNWR Kossuth 7 Oct (MCK), 76 at Little Storm L Buena Vista 7 Oct (DSi), and 84 at HHW Pottawattamie 10 Nov (EJ). The latest was a juvenile at Morse L Wright 21 Nov (SJD).

Killdeer: There were 400 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 18 Aug (TM), 340 at Saylorville Res Polk 20 Aug (AB), and 560 at Red Rock Res Polk 30 Aug (JG).

Semipalmated Plover: There were up to 40 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 7–15 Aug (JMc, BCC, MHB) and 31 at Red Rock Res Marion 30 Aug (JG). The latest was one at Terry Trueblood RA Johnson 25 Oct (BBu, DDo, STh).

Piping Plover: A single juvenile was at Red Rock Res Marion 1 Aug (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: Reported in nine counties scattered widely over the state. The latest was one at Hawkeye WA Johnson 21 Aug (JKe).

Whimbrel: no reports.

Hudsonian Godwit: All: 21 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 31 Aug (JH) and one at the same location 2 Sep (LQ).



Marbled Godwit, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 3 September 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Marbled Godwit: All: one at USNWR Kossuth 14 Aug (JMc),

2 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 23 Aug (BCC, m.ob.), one at Saylorville Res Polk 31 Aug (RLC, TJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: one at Saylorville Res Polk 13 Aug (RJT) and 2 there 1 Sep (AB).

RED KNOT: A single juvenile at Red Rock Res Marion 5 Sep (*SJD-ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: There were 40 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 27 Aug (Josh Engel), 29 at Saylorville Res Polk 30 Aug (AB), 28 at Hawkeye WA Johnson 6 Sep (MHB), 95 at USNWR Kossuth 21 Sep (MCK) and 32 at USNWR 7 Oct (MCK), 45 at Little Swan L Dickinson 6 Sep (POR), 95 at MidAmerican ponds Woodbury 26 Sep (JP, BFH), and 70 at the same location 10 Oct (JP, BFH). The last report was 3 at Kiowa M Sac 18 Oct (DSi).



Sanderling, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 25 August 2020. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Sanderling: The high was 91 at Red Rock Res Marion 12 Sep (SJD). The latest was one at Saylorville Res Polk 4 Nov (RJT).

Dunlin: About 100 were at Montrose M Lee 2 Nov (JLF). The latest was one at Bays Branch WA Guthrie 14 Nov (AB).

Baird's Sandpiper: Some high

counts were 18 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG) and 20 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 31 Aug (JH). The last report was one at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* 8 Nov (AB).



Semipalmated Sandpiper, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 26 August 2020. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.

Least Sandpiper: More than 30 counts of at least 50 were reported widely over the state during August and September. The high count was 180 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 20 Aug (JG). The latest report was one at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* 24 Nov (JMc).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: one at Marsh Farm W *Dallas* 22 Aug (AB), 2 at Errington M *Polk* 11 Sep (RLC), one at Sandhill L *Woodbury* 26 Sep (JP, BFH), one at MidAmerican Energy pond *Woodbury* 26 Sep (JP, BFH).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: An exceptional fall for detection. There were 12 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 2 Aug (BCC, MHB) and 14 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Aug (AB). The latest reported was one at USNWR *Kossuth* 7 Oct (MCK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Peak of migration was 1800 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Aug (AB), although counts in the multiple hundreds were

scattered throughout August. The last count over 500 was 660 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG). The last report was 6 at Cone M *Louisa* 13 Nov (JKe).

Semipalmated Sandpiper:

There were 50 at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* 2 Aug (WRS). Peak of migration was 540 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Aug (AB). At Hawkeye WA *Johnson* there were 95 on 24 Aug (MHB), peaking at 225 on 29 Aug (BCC), with 140 on 6 Sep (MHB). The last sighting was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Sep (TJD).

Western Sandpiper: All: one at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 3 Aug (LAS), one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 9 Aug (JF), one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 18 Aug (JG), one juvenile there on 5 Sep (SJD), and 3 juveniles there on 7 Sep (SJD).

Short-billed Dowitcher: The latest was one at Colo Ponds *Story* 6 Sep (TMH).



Long-billed Dowitcher, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 4 October 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Peak migration was the end of October. There were 12 at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 22 Oct (DSi), 14 at Marsh Farm W *Dallas* 25 Oct (AB), and 12 at Red Oak Road *Allamakee* 28 Oct

(JFu, William Smith).

American Woodcock: At least one report in all four fall months. The last report was 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Nov (RLC).

Wilson's Snipe: The most was 32 at Kiowa M *Sac* 18 Oct (DSi). Peak of migration appeared to be from 10–18 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: The two highest counts were 12 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 2 Aug (MHB) and 13 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG).

Solitary Sandpiper: There were 41 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 2 Aug (BCC). The last was one at Coolegar Sl *Louisa* 11 Oct (PL).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The most was 230 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 13 Sep (JG). The last were 5 on 8 Nov at Big Creek WA *Polk* (TJD).

Willet: All: one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 10 Aug (RJT), one at Storm L *Buena Vista* 31 Aug (DSi).

Greater Yellowlegs: A high of 22 was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG). The last was 6 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* 28 Nov (TNJ).

Wilson's Phalarope: A high of 15 was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 8 Aug (Jack Bushong, Ryan Bushong). The two latest sightings were 2 at Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook *Scott* 12 Sep (SN) and one at USNWR *Kossuth* 13 Sep (MCK).

Red-necked Phalarope: Some high counts were 69 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (SJD) and a staggering 252 at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 14 Sep (LAS). The two latest sightings were 6 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Oct (RLC) and 4 at USNWR *Kossuth* 7 Oct (MCK).

RED PHALAROPE: A single stayed at Saylorville Res *Polk* from

31 Oct to 7 Nov (*AB-ph, *JB-ph, *TJD-ph, *RLC-ph, *WV-ph).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A first cycle was found 25 Oct south of Grand Mound *Clinton* (BBu-ph, DDo, STh).

Sabine's Gull: The first was one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 12 Sep (JF, m.ob.). The same day 3 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). One was at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* 19 Sep (KS). The last was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5–6 Oct (AB, RLC). All were juveniles.

Bonaparte's Gull: The first was one at Spring Run Complex WA *Dickinson* 17 Aug (DMi). There were 75 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 24 Oct (KH). A high of 215 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (KVS, SCS). The last count over 100 was 106 at Big Creek SP *Polk* on 11 Nov (AB).

LITTLE GULL: All: one 1st cycle at USNWR *Kossuth* 30 Aug to 2 Sep (*MCK-ph, *POR-ph), one 1st cycle at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 6 Sep (*POR-ph), an adult at Coralville Res *Johnson* 19–27 Sep (*JF-ph, *MHB-ph, *CW-ph, *WC-ph, *PDBS-ph, m.ob), a 2nd cycle at Coralville Res *Johnson* 2 Oct (*BCC-ph), a 2nd cycle at Pool 15 *Scott* 11 Oct (*SMF). The two 1st cycles and two 2nd cycles could have been the same birds given the dates and locations.

Laughing Gull: no reports.

Franklin's Gull: There were 4200 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG), and 3000 at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 6 Sep (POR). A high was 6200 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Sep (AB). The last four-digit count was 2000 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 29 Oct (KVS) and the last report was one at Storm L *Buena Vista* 20 Nov

(DSi).

Herring Gull: An early report was 3 at Spring Run Complex WA *Dickinson* 17 Aug (DMi).

Iceland Gull: All: an immature and adult Thayer's subspecies at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* 20 Nov (LAS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The first was a juvenile at Dubuque *Dubuque* 8–12 Sep (DAS, TM). An adult was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 8 Sep to 29 Oct (JF, WV, m.ob.). An adult and 1st cycle were at Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook *Scott* 23 Sep (SN). One 1st cycle was at Storm L *Buena Vista* 4 Oct (DSi). An adult-like bird was at Cedar L *Linn* 13 Oct (JE). A 1st cycle was at Dubuque *Dubuque* 17 Oct (DAS). A 2nd or 3rd cycle was a Red Rock Res *Marion* 25 Oct (JG). A 1st cycle was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 13 Oct to 11 Nov (JF, BCC, JLF). A 1st cycle was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 15–18 Nov (AB, m.ob.). A 1st cycle was at Cedar L *Linn* 21 Nov (JF).

Glaucous Gull: The first was a juvenile or 2nd cycle at Brinker L *Black Hawk* 30 Oct (AKO). A juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 17–26 Nov (TJD, m.ob.), a juvenile was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 21 Nov (TGS), an adult was at Cedar L *Linn* 23 Nov (JF), and a juvenile was there 27–28 Nov (JF, m.ob.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The only report was one 1st cycle at L&D 15 *Scott* 28 Oct (*JF-ph).

Least Tern: All: up to 9 at Wau-bonsie Access WA *Fremont* 2–8 Aug (WRS), one at Browns Lake WA *Woodbury* 7 Aug (GLV), one juvenile at Red Rock Res *Marion* 22 Aug (SJD), one adult at a private wetland

north of Waterloo *Black Hawk* 22 Aug (TGS, m.ob.).

Caspian Tern: The most was 94 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Aug (AB). There were 40 at Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook *Scott* 12 Sep (SN). The last was one at Pool 15 *Scott* 11 Oct (SMF).



Caspian Tern, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 17 August 2020. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Black Tern: The most was 49 at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 12 Aug (LAS). There were 37 at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* 2 Sep (LAS). Two later birds were one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Sep (AB) and one at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* 6 Oct (LAS).

Common Tern: The most was 3 at Storm L *Buena Vista* 10 Sep (DSi). The last was one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 28 Sep (KH).

Forster's Tern: The most was 22 at Quarry Springs P *Jasper* 15 Aug (Lori Zabel). The last was one at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* 31 Oct (LAS).

Red-throated Loon: Up to 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 18–25 Nov (RLC, TMH, m.ob.).

Pacific Loon: All: one was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 17 Oct (MHB, BCC) and one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 25–31 Oct (AB, m.ob.).

Common Loon: A high of 33 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Nov (CW) with counts of 20 or more at this location from 30 Oct to 12 Nov (AB, m.ob.). There were 32 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 25 Oct (JG).



Common Loon, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 9 November 2020. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.

Double-crested Cormorant: There were 3955 counted at HHW *Pottawattamie* 27 Sep (EJ), 998 at HHW on 30 Sep (EJ), and 700 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Oct (AB).

Neotropic Cormorant: All: one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 1 Aug (SJD), one at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* 9–29 Aug (SLo), one at Trumbull L *Clay* 15 Aug (LAS), and one at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 24 Sep (SJD).

American White Pelican: The highest count was 5600 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 8 Aug (BWi). Notable counts at HHW *Pottawattamie* include: 1582 on 5 Sep, 2137 on 12 Sep, 1848 on 13 Sep, and 2603 on 29 Sep (all EJ).

American Bittern: The last report was one at Reiff P *Sac* 14 Nov (DSi).

Least Bittern: The last reports were of one at Trumbull L *Clay* 14

Sep (Carlos Avery) and one at Arnolds P *Dickinson* 14 Sep (Denis Eckert).

Great Blue Heron: There were up to 45 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 4–11 Aug (MHB, BCC), 45 at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* 22 Aug (MHB), 38 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG), 46 at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 6 Sep (DSi), and 51 at a private wetland north of Waterloo *Black Hawk* 22 Sep (AKO).

Great Egret: Numbers peaked at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* with 340 on 13 Aug (MHB). There were 182 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (JG) and 250 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 6 Sep (EEO). The last was one at Credit Island P *Scott* 16 Nov (FSS).

Snowy Egret: All: one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 12–19 Aug (MHB, m.ob.), one at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 18 Aug (DSi), 2 that likely flew back and forth between Cedar River Crossing and L Macbride, both *Johnson*, 22–27 Sep (SMF, BCC, m.ob.), one at Littlefield CP *Audubon* 26 Sep (DTh), one at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 26 Sep (SJD), and one at a wetland just south of Bel Plaine *Benton* 18 Oct (TGS).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: One juvenile was at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* 21–25 Aug (*JF-ph, *WV-ph, m.ob.).

Cattle Egret: All: up to 40 at a rural pasture north of Clinton *Clinton* 14–26 Sep (TM), 5 at Sandhill L *Woodbury* 26 Sep (JP), and one at Pioneer P *Page* 22 Oct (LGR).

Green Heron: The last was one at Martin L *Black Hawk* 13 Oct (Christian Fernandez).

Black-crowned Night-Heron:

The last were two juveniles at Amana Lily Pond Iowa 7–8 Nov (JKe, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:

All: a juvenile at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 7–14 Aug (DSi), a juvenile at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* 11–15 Aug (Monica Robinson, m.ob.), a juvenile at Brushy Creek SRA *Webster* 26–31 Aug (CW, WV, TM), and a juvenile on private property north of Owego W Complex *Woodbury* 19–20 Sep (GLV, POR, JP, BFH).



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 8 August 2020. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

WHITE IBIS: The second state record was a juvenile found at Hawkeye WA Johnson 8–10 Aug (*NA-ph).

White-faced Ibis: All: one at L Macbride *Johnson* 14 Sep (JF), one at 290th Street wetland *Cerro Gordo* 15–16 Sep (BVL, RGo), 3 at Trumbull L *Clay* 19 Sep (LAS), a high of 13 at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* 26 Sep (DTh), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Sep (RLC), one at Master-son WA *Hamilton* 30 Sep (CW), and one at Trumbull L *Clay* 25 Sep (JG).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: A juvenile was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 4–18 Aug (*CW-ph, *MHB-ph,

*WV-ph, JF, m.ob.).

Turkey Vulture: HHW *Pottawattamie* had a good season total counting 3,468. The HHW high count was 309 on 5 Oct, with the last detection 24 Oct. GGHW *Marshall* recorded 700, the second highest season total all-time. The GGHW season high was 128 on 1 Oct. Some late dates included one at Neal Smith Tr *Polk* 15 Nov (AB), one at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 15 Nov (JMc), and one north of Burlington *Des Moines* 19 Nov (BW).

Osprey: HHW *Pottawattamie* record 93 for the season total with a high count of 11 on 22 Sep. GGHW *Marshall* recorded 37, the second highest season total all-time. The GGHW season high of 7 was on 25 Sep. The last was one at HHW *Pottawattamie* 21 Nov (EJ).

Golden Eagle: HHW *Pottawattamie* recorded a season high of 2 on 24 Oct (EJ). Singles at HHW were 28 Sep, 6 Oct, and 29 Nov (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had singles 12, 14, and 16 Oct. Non-hawk watch sightings, all: one at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* 25 Sep (JH), one at Green Valley SP *Union* 26 Sep (DTh), one in rural *Monona* 14 Oct (JC), one at Waterloo *Black Hawk* 1 Nov (TGS), one at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 1 Nov (TGS), one near Riceville *Mitchell* 7 Nov (SS), one at Green Island WA *Jackson* 15 Nov (TM), one at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* 17 Nov (LAS), one at Waterloo *Black Hawk* 19 Nov (TS).

Northern Harrier: Two high counts of 11 were at HHW *Pottawattamie* on 8 and 26 Oct.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Second lowest season total ever at HHW



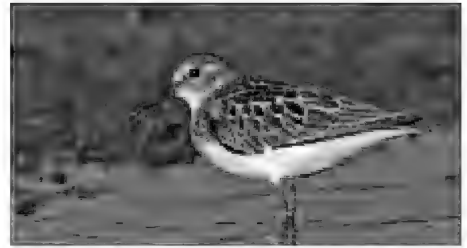
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 27 August 2020. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.



Rufous Hummingbird, Rippey, Greene, 1 August 2020. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.



Red Knot, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 17 September 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Least Sandpiper, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 29 August 2020. Photograph by Jayden Bowen, Iowa City, IA.



Semipalmated Sandpiper, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 28 August 2020. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Red-necked Phalarope, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 3 September 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Sabine's Gull, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 12 September 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Bonaparte's Gull, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 4 November 2020. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.



Forster's Tern, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 1 September 2020. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Swainson's Hawks, Woodbury, 19 September 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Northern Flicker (Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted), Errington Marsh, Polk, 30 September 2020. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.



American Kestrel, 130th St., Monroe, 27 November 2020. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



*Merlin, Cherokee, 4 September 2020.
Photograph by Dick Bierman, Cherokee, IA.*



*White-eyed Vireo, Red Rock Reservoir,
Marion, 27 November 2020. Photograph by
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



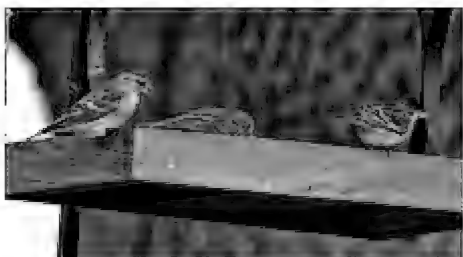
*Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ogden, Boone, 21
October 2020. Photograph by Doug Harr, Og-
den, IA.*



*Gray-cheeked Thrush, McHose-Herman Park,
Boone, 11 September 2020. Photograph by
Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



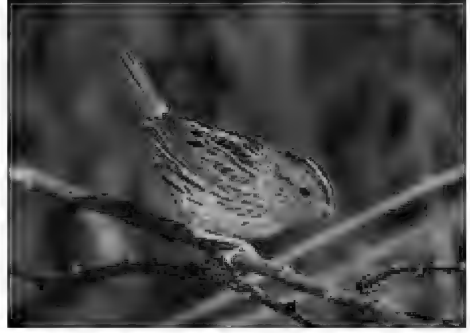
*Pine Siskin, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 15
October 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen,
Sioux City, IA.*



*Lesser Goldfinch and Common Redpoll,
Burlington, Des Moines, 22 November 2020.
Photograph by Gerald White, Muscatine, IA.*



Snow Bunting, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 6 November 2020. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.



LeConte's Sparrow, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 8 October 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Rusty Blackbird, Bjorkboda Marsh, Hamilton, 13 October 2020. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 4 October 2020. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Wilson's Warbler, Ledges State Park, Boone, 30 August 2020. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Blue Grosbeak, Woodbury, 15 August 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

Pottawattamie. The day high for the season was 27 on Oct 10 (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had 82 on 25 Sep, 73 on 26 Sep, and 41 on 1 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: Third lowest season ever at HHW *Pottawattamie*. Day high for the season was 19 on 28 Sep (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had 8 on 17 Sep, 8 on 28 Sep, and 7 on 25 Sep.

Northern Goshawk: All: one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 17 Sep (DAS), one in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 20 Sep (PH), one north of Murray *Clarke* 26 Sep (DTh), one 21 Oct and one 25 Oct at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ), one in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (RGo).

Bald Eagle: Highest day total was 110 at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had its third highest season total ever with 584. The highest fall days at GGHW were 114 on 15 Nov, 83 on 16 Nov, and 54 on 22 Nov.

Mississippi Kite: As many as 4 were seen in West Des Moines *Polk* 1–12 Aug (RJT, m.ob.). One was in Ottumwa *Wapello* 30 Aug (JBo). A juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 7 Sep (PJW). The last was one at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 14 Sep (SJD, WO).

Red-shouldered Hawk: HHW *Pottawattamie* recorded 3 total: one on 2 Sep, one on 15 Sep, and the last on 22 Sep (EJ). Outliers included one at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* 27 Aug (TMH) and one at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* from 27 Sep to 11 Nov (SLo).

Broad-winged Hawk: Peak flight at HHW *Pottawattamie* was 118 on 23 Sep (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had a third highest ever count with 2002 total. A few high day counts at

GGHW were 118 on 17 Sep, 487 of 19 Sep, and 981 on 25 Sep. Outside of the major hawk watches, the highest total was 281 at Russell WA *Ma-haska* 28 Sep (LGR).



Broad-winged Hawk, Big Creek State Park, Polk, 21 September 2020. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Swainson's Hawk: An early sighting was one on 2 Aug near Percival *Fremont* (WRS). HHW *Pottawattamie* first counted the species 7 Sep and last count was 17 Oct. There were 78 on 28 Sep with a peak flight of 119 on 30 Sep (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* had three: one each on 24 Sep, 25 Sep, and 1 Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: Peak flight at HHW *Pottawattamie* was 48 on 1 Nov (EJ). Top three days at GGHW *Marshall* were 53 on 28 Sep, 48 on 1 Oct, and 25 on 18 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: HHW *Pottawattamie* had a record low 11 for the season. GGHW *Marshall* counted 9 for the season. One in rural *Story* 2 Oct (CPL) was the earliest.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: HHW *Pottawattamie* had 4, double the historic average and the only record high for a species this season. The species was moving earlier than expected with all counted in late

September. One was counted 27 Sep, 2 on 28 Sep, and the last on 30 Sep (EJ).

Barn Owl: One was recorded in rural *Johnson* 7 Oct (JMc).

Short-eared Owl: A couple early reports were 7 Oct at Snodgrass Farm *Keokuk* (J. Reinhard) and 11 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The first detection of the fall was at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 15 Nov (JMc, m.ob.).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reports at HHW *Pottawattamie* appeared to catch multiple migratory pulses throughout September. These included: 92 on 2 Sep, 63 on 4 Sep, 121 on 5 Sep, 59 on 13 Sep, 87 on 15 Sep, 119 on 16 Sep, and 51 on 22 Sep (all EJ).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The most was 7 at the South Skunk River Tr *Story* 3 Oct (SSP)

Northern Flicker: A high was 65 recorded at the Squirrel Hollow Hawk Watch *Greene* 26 Sep (EEO). There were 34 at GGHW *Marshall* 26 Sep (WV), 34 at Big Creek SP *Polk* 26 Sep (CW), and 44 north of Burlington *Des Moines* 28 Sep (BW_i).

Pileated Woodpecker: There were 2 at Stone SP *Woodbury* 4 Sep (GLV). One was at Hidden Bridge WA *Lyon* 26 Sep (POR).

American Kestrel: At HHW *Pottawattamie*, first detection was 4 Sep and last was 12 Oct. Peak of migration was 22 on 26 Sep.

Merlin: HHW *Pottawattamie* had a first count on 7 Sep and last on 26 Nov with a peak of 22 on 26 Sep. Both Taiga and Prairie were record-

ed with latter subspecies showing up later in the count. GGHW *Marshall* recorded an unprecedented 17 for the season. Big days were 3 on 21 Sep, 4 on 26 Sep, and 3 on 1 Oct.

GYRFALCON: One was found at Red Rock Res *Marion* 28 Nov (*SJD-ph).

Peregrine Falcon: HHW *Pottawattamie* counted 31 for the season with the first on 6 Sep, a peak of 4 on 6 Oct, and the last very late for the season on 19 Nov (EJ). GGHW *Marshall* tallied 8 for the season with day highs of 2 on 25 Sep and 2 on 26 Sep. Away from hawk watches the species was reported widely in 32 counties.



Peregrine Falcon, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 21 September 2020. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Prairie Falcon: HHW *Pottawattamie* tied a record low of one observed a little early on 9 Oct (EJ).

Great Crested Flycatcher: A third latest-tying individual was found at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 9 Oct (DyO-details, m.ob.).

Western Kingbird: The last two were one at Anderson WA *Montgomery* 29 Aug (Bobby Walz) and one at Sugar Creek Audubon Nature Sanctuary *Jasper* 5 Sep (Kristina Wolf).

Eastern Kingbird: There were 30 at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* 22 Aug (SLo), 35 at L Macbride *Johnson* 29 Aug (BMW), and 28 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 6 Sep (RJT). The last was one at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 27 Sep (DSi) and one at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* 27 Sep (KJAB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last was one north of Burlington *Des Moines* 29 Sep (BWi).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The latest date was 10 Oct, with one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB) and one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (ShS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first was one at Belgium Grove *Johnson* 16 Aug (TW, DWa). The last was one north of Burlington *Des Moines* 30 Sep (BWi).

Acadian Flycatcher: The last were 2 at Bloody Run CP *Clayton* 13 Sep (WV).

Alder Flycatcher: The first return was one at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* 13 Aug (KVS, SCS). The last was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Aug (KVS, SCS).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was one at Hendrickson M *Marshall* 14 Sep (HZ).

Least Flycatcher: The first return was one at Ada Hayden HP *Story* 12 Aug (PMi). The high was 19 at East River Valley P *Story* 30 Aug (SSP). There were 10 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (Beth Janson) and 7 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 5 Sep (BCC). The latest was one at Ledges SP *Boone* 6 Oct (DCH).

Eastern Phoebe: The last was one at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 16 Nov (LQ).

Loggerhead Shrike: The latest

was one 4 Oct at Errington M *Polk* 4 (CW-ph).

Northern Shrike: The earliest was one 21 Oct at Huff Access CP *Monona* (SM).



Northern Shrike, 139th Trail, Monroe, 27 November 2020. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

White-eyed Vireo: A new record late was one 28 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD-ph). This bird was an unprecedented 57 days past the previous record late date.

Bell's Vireo: The last report was one 16 Sep at Purple Martin L *Polk* (TJD).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last two reports were both on 3 Oct: one at Trestle Tr *Polk* (KVD, SCS) and one at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB).

Blue-headed Vireo: The first returning birds were a pair 29 Aug at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* (JTi). The high was 6 on 9 Sep at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo). The last was one 14 Oct at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (Moni Usasz).

Philadelphia Vireo: There was one on 19 Aug at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (Thomas Schmidtkunz) and one at Little Swan L *Dickinson* on the same day (LAS). A new second

latest report was 14 Oct at Riverview RA *Black Hawk* (TSS-ph). The last was a new record late, one 22 Oct at Marion CP *Marion* (Marla Mertz-ph).

Warbling Vireo: The latest was one on 3 Oct at Wickiup Hill LC *Linn* (JE).

Red-eyed Vireo: The last was one 10 Oct at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (JTi).

FISH CROW: Up to two were seen at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Aug through 6 Sep (*CW-audio, *AB-audio).

COMMON RAVEN: One was seen 28 Sep at Palisades P *Winneshiek* (*BVe).

Bank Swallow: A new third latest was one seen 5 Oct at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* (BCC-details).

Tree Swallow: The last sighting was 5 on 7 Nov at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The last was one on 17 Oct at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (BWl).

Purple Martin: The last was a juvenile 3 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Barn Swallow: The last was 5 on 31 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Cliff Swallow: The last was one 29 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This species irrupted early into Iowa with one early August detection, but most in late August onward. The first detection was one 2 Aug at Riverview Cemetery *Kossuth* (MCK). Detections were essentially daily over the fall after the reports of one at a private property 20 Aug *Dallas* (Skye Wojtak) and one on the same date at

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (TJD).

House Wren: New third latest date of a single 29 Oct at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JH-details).

Winter Wren: First fall report was one on 5 Sep at Proving Ground RA *Dubuque* (DAS).

Sedge Wren: The last was one on 27 Oct at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo).

Marsh Wren: The last was one on 8 Nov at Cone M *Louisa* (JMc).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: High of 15 on 28 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DH). Last reported on 18 Oct at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* (Dakota Moore).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First was one on 18 Aug at a residence in Brandon *Buchanan* (WV). High count 25 on 11 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DH). Last report was one 29 Nov at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (CHA).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First report on 29 Aug in Ogden *Boone* (DCH). Peak migration occurred the last week of Sep through the first week of Oct. High of 32 on 1 Oct at Big Creek WA *Polk* (CW).

Eastern Bluebird: High count of 30 on 19 Oct at The Harvest Preserve *Johnson* (LQ).

Veery: High of 4 reported on 1 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TNJ). Last on 6 Oct Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TJN).

Gray-checked Thrush: First fall report was one 28 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW). Last was one 28 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (JE).

Swainson's Thrush: First was a record early single 2 Aug at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (TLS). High

count of 20 on 9 Sep at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (Stephan Lorenz). Last was one 24 Oct in Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (DGE).

Hermit Thrush: First individual on 29 Sep at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (AIB). High of 11 on 17 Oct in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (BLP).



Hermit Thrush, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 19 October 2020. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Wood Thrush: Last was one on 10 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DD).

American Robin: High of 6266 on 10 Oct at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ).

Varied Thrush: One report of an individual on 29 Nov in Charter Oak *Crawford* (Quentin Nolan-ph).

Gray Catbird: High counts on 22 Aug and 12 Sep at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo). Last was one on 11 Nov at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo).

Brown Thrasher: High of 6 on 11 Sep at Babcock Woods *Bremer* (MWe). Last was one on 24 Nov in Ankeny *Polk* (Chris Sievers).

Northern Mockingbird: 15 reports of singles and doubles from 8 counties (eBird, m.ob.). Last reported on 7 Nov at Ringgold State WA *Ringgold* (Christian and Conway

Hawn-ph).

Cedar Waxwing: High of 250 on 2 Nov at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW).



Cedar Waxwing, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 19 November 2020. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Continuing to expand up major rivers. Reported in 27 counties. Some of the farthest outliers included: one 2 Nov in Grimes *Polk* (JB), one on 25 Oct in Greene *Butler* (BDB), and 2 on 27 Nov in Madrid *Boone* (CW).

American Pipit: First was 4 on 4 Sep at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ). High count of 35 on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Historic irruption year; reported in 20 counties. The high and first report was 7 on 30 Oct at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (JeB *fide* *BCC-ph). Those with documentation were: one near Hartman Preserve *Black Hawk* 1 Nov (*Brian Roberts-ph), one at a private residence *Des Moines* 1-2 Nov (*BWi-ph, *POR-ph), one 9-10 Nov in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (*RGo-ph), and one 17 Nov at a private residence near North Liberty *Johnson* (*RJH-ph).

Purple Finch: High of 100

on 16 Oct north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW_i). Detected in at least 52 counties (eBird, m.ob.).

Common Redpoll: First report on 30 Oct at Mount Auburn Bridge P *Benton* (WV). High of 17 on 15 Nov in Waverly *Bremer* (MWe).

Red Crossbill: High of 17 on 27 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). First on 23 Sep at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EJ).

White-winged Crossbill: There were 20 on 21 Nov at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (TM). First sighting on 18 Nov at Hillside Cemetery *Franklin* (MWe).

Pine Siskin: First seen on 14 Aug in rural *Jackson* (BW-ph). Abundant, high of 120 on 21 Oct at Ada Hayden HP *Story* (WO).

LESSER GOLDFINCH: One was in Burlington *Des Moines* 22 Nov (*CRE-ph, *BCC-ph, *JLF-ph, *WV-ph, *POR-ph, *GDW-ph). This was the second state record.

American Goldfinch: Recorded in 93 counties (m.ob.). High of 250 on 29 Aug at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (KCR).

Lapland Longspur: High of 800 individuals on 14 Nov at Bays



Lapland Longspur, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 11 October 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Branch WA *Guthrie* (AB). Three were seen on 3 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Snow Bunting: First seen on 4 Oct at Hamm Island *Dubuque* (TM). High counts of 18 reported on 12 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* and on 21 Nov at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Recorded in only 18 counties, down from 41 in 2019 (eBird, m.ob.). High count of 10 on 15 Aug on private property just north of Owego W Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP). The last was one at Anderson WA *Montgomery* 5 Nov, which tied the second latest date (SLo-ph).

Lark Sparrow: High count of 9 on 7 Aug and 9 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc, JKe). The last were one at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC) and one at Thomas Mitchell P *Polk* (UDG), both 6 Sep.

Chipping Sparrow: A high count of 50 on 3 Oct at West Lake CP *Scott* (L. Johannsen).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Well-distributed and reported in 15 counties, almost exclusively as singles or doubles. High count was 4 on 26 Aug at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi). The latest date was one on 11 Nov in Jefferson *Greene* (MTW).

Field Sparrow: High count of 20 on 5 Oct at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo). Abundant sightings, but only 11 records of more than 10 individuals (eBird, m.ob.).

Fox Sparrow: Recorded in 59 counties. High counts of 10 or more in seven counties. High count of 34 birds recorded on 28 Oct at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK).

American Tree Sparrow: The

first were 5 at Luton WA Woodbury 15 Oct (JC). The high was 64 seen on 23 Nov at Ada Hayden HP *Story* (RLC).

Dark-eyed Junco: A high count of 300 on both 29 Oct at Viking Lake SP (SLo), *Montgomery* and 30 Oct at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo). Observed statewide with notable early pulses of migration throughout late Sep and early Oct in the entire Great Lakes region (eBird, m.ob.). A record early date recorded on 6 Sep with one at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB-details). The prior record early date was 13 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: First report was 3 on 29 Sep at Tedesco ELC *Story* (PMi). High count of 45 on 10 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW). Many counts of more than 20 birds during the first week of Oct.

Harris's Sparrow: Well-recorded across the entire state in 53 counties with *Story* and *Polk* seeing the bulk of sightings. High count of 48 birds on 15 Nov in Luton WA *Woodbury* (JC). There were 21 reports with counts of 20 or more (eBird, m.ob.).

White-throated Sparrow: High count of 180 birds on 21 Oct at Trestle Tr *Polk* (SCS). There were eleven counts with 100 or more (eBird, m.ob.).

Vesper Sparrow: High of 10 on 18 Oct in Ames *Story* (EEO). Mostly singles and doubles reported in 30 counties.

LeConte's Sparrow: Recorded in 18 counties. There were 14 on 8 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). The high count was an impressive 36 on 15 Oct at Luton WA *Woodbury* (JC).

Nelson's Sparrow: Recorded in

15 counties. High count of 8 on 2 Oct at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* (DH). Another count of 8 on 3 Oct at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (JE). A second latest-tying single was 28 Oct at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo-ph).

Henslow's Sparrow: Recorded in 11 counties, mostly as singles. There was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Oct (KVS, SCS). High count of 5 birds recorded on 12 Oct at Indiangrass Hills *Iowa* (G. Fitch). There was one at Big M *Butler* 13 Oct (DGE). The latest was one at Anderson WA *Montgomery* 18 Oct (SLo-ph).

Savannah Sparrow: High count of 93 on 15 Oct at Luton WA *Woodbury* (JC).

Song Sparrow: High of 82 on 21 Oct at Ada Hayden HP *Story* (WO). Reported in 88 of 99 Iowa counties (eBird, m.ob.).

Lincoln's Sparrow: A high of 45 was on 11 Oct at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo). There were 42 reports of 10 or more statewide (eBird, m.ob.).

Swamp Sparrow: Reported statewide in 58 counties (27 in 2019). Peak number was 75 on 16 Oct north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BWj).

Spotted Towhee: Abundant this fall, occurring in 16 counties as far east as Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson*. High counts were 3 on 29 Sep at a private residence in *Boone* (KJ) and 3 on 30 Sep in Rippey *Greene* (CR).

Eastern Towhee: Reported in 58 counties (eBird), highs of 12 on both 2 Aug at Dorothy Pecaut NC *Woodbury* (JT) and 14 Oct at a private residence in rural *Monona* (JCo).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Single

report of one bird on 25 August at Shimek SF-Croton Unit *Lee* (TNJ).

Yellow-headed Blackbird:

Reported in 11 counties (eBird, m. obs.). High of 12 on 9 Aug south of Bob Pyle Marsh *Story* (EEO). Last report on 9 Oct at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Bobolink: High count of 20 on 19 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SHo). Last seen on 6 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (Jo Popma).

Eastern Meadowlark: Reported statewide in 47 counties. High of 42 on 28 Nov at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (Ryan McPherrren).

Western Meadowlark: Last report and high count of 30 on 27 Nov in rural *Woodbury* (RWR).

Orchard Oriole: High count of 6 on 10 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last was one on 13 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ).



Baltimore Oriole, Purple Martin Lake, Polk, 7 September 2020. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

Baltimore Oriole: High of 12 reported twice on 14 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and again on 15 Aug at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (SM). Last report on 28 Sep near Washington *Washington* (FB).

Red-winged Blackbird: High

count of 10,000 reported on 25 Oct in Chelsea *Tama* (BBu, DDo, STh).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High count of 2500 on 19 Oct in rural northwest *Johnson* (BCC).

Rusty Blackbird: High count of 100 reported three times: on 29 Oct, 5 Nov and 6 Nov at Big Creek WA *Polk* (TJD), Salisbury Bridge RA *Muscatine* (FB), and Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (DH), respectively. Last reported on 24 Nov at a private residence *Harrison* (CD).

Brewer's Blackbird: High count of 180 on 11 Nov east of Errington M *Polk* (AB). Last was 5 on 21 Nov at Latimer Golf Club *Franklin* (AB).

Great-tailed Grackle: Restricted mainly to western counties with the exception of *Tama*. High of 25 on 26 Sep near Coon Rapids *Greene* (EEO). Last on 18 Oct at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi).

Ovenbird: First migrants reported on 5 Aug at Maquoketa Caves SP *Jackson* (AMi). High count of 6 on 29 Aug at Peggy's Tr *Story* (ABu). Mostly singles and doubles reported (eBird m.ob.)

Louisiana Waterthrush: One bird reported 2 Aug at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (JMcN).

Northern Waterthrush: Two high counts of 4 birds reported on 12 Sep at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo) and Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ). Last seen 4 Oct at South Skunk R Tr *Story* (SSP).

Golden-winged Warbler: High count of 4 on 9 Sep at Proving Grounds RA *Dubuque* (DAS and TM). Last sighting on 24 Sep at the same location (DAS).

Blue-winged Warbler: Few fall

reports, nearly all single birds. High count of 5 birds on 1 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TNJ). A second-latest date was reported on 27 Sep at Trestle Tr *Polk* (KVS-details, SCS-details).

Black-and-white Warbler: 12 birds reported on 29 Aug at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo). Well reported state-wide through the fall in 49 counties (eBird, m.ob.).

Prothonotary Warbler: no reports.

Tennessee Warbler: High count of 15 on 19 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB), and again on 23 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). Last seen 13 Oct at Russell WA *Mahaska* (JKi).

Orange-crowned Warbler: High of 25 on 27 Sep at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo). Last sighting 9 Nov at Trestle Tr *Polk* (KVS).

Nashville Warbler: High of 20 on 13 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ). One of the more abundantly recorded fall warblers. Last seen 27 Oct Ada Hayden HP *Story* (WO).

Mourning Warbler: Reported in 14 counties. High count of only 2 birds reported 10 times (eBird, m.ob.) Last seen 28 Sep at Babcock Woods *Bremer* (MWe).

Kentucky Warbler: Three reports, one on 9 Aug at Slip Bluff P *Decatur* (ABu), one on 12 Sep north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW), and another 5 Sep on private property *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Common Yellowthroat: Abundant across the state in 75 counties. High of 20 reported four times, on 2 Aug and 20 Sep north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW), on 25 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe), and on 27 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). Last on

18 Oct at Cedar L *Linn* (JE).

Hooded Warbler: Two reports of a single bird, first reported on 6 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JB), second on 10 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

American Redstart: High count of 23 on 1 Sep at Lamson Woods State Preserve *Jefferson* (TB). Observed in 55 counties statewide (eBird, m.ob.) Last recorded on 18 Oct at River Tr *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Cape May Warbler: High count of 3 on 12 Sep at Evergreen Cemetery *Jackson* (ADr). Last on 1 Oct on the South Skunk R Tr *Story* (SSP).

Cerulean Warbler: Reported in 4 counties, all single birds. Last on 13 Sep at Riverview RA *Black Hawk* (TSS, CBe), and at Proving Grounds RA *Dubuque* (DAS).

Northern Parula: Primarily singles, high of 4 reported 5 Aug at Proving Grounds RA *Dubuque* (KJAB). Last on 6 Oct at Cedar L *Linn* (JE).

Magnolia Warbler: High count of 12 on 2 Sep at Saylorville Res.-*Polk* (RLC). Last on 11 Oct Rice L *Winnebago* (JT).



Blackburnian Warbler, McFarland Park, Story, 29 August 2020. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Abundant reports this fall in 28 counties. High of 9 on 17 Sep north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW). Last reported on 6 Oct at Effigy Mounds National Monument *Allamakee* (ATi).

Blackburnian Warbler: High of 6 on 1 Sep at Tedesco ELC *Story* (SSP). Last on 11 Oct at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (KJAB).

Yellow Warbler: High of 18 on 8 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (ABu). Last reported on 28 Sep at Palisades P *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: High of 16 on 1 Sep at Lamson Woods State Preserve *Jefferson* (TB). Last on 30 Sep north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW).

Blackpoll Warbler: Only 6 reports this fall. High count of 2 on 7 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). Last on 20 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A decent number of observations this fall in 8 counties. A pair was seen 30 Aug at L Macbride *Johnson* (m.ob.).

Palm Warbler: High count of 28 on 3 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (ABu). Last reports of single birds on 22 Oct at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* (WV) and at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).

Pine Warbler: Singles seen in 6 counties; *Jackson, Benton, Linn, Scott, Clinton, Polk* (m.ob.). Last seen 10 Oct at a private residence south of Alleman *Polk*, a new third latest date (WR-ph).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: High count of 150 on 2 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, SCS). Dozens of reports of over 20 individuals.

Black-throated Green Warbler: High count of 7 reported mul-

tiples in the first two weeks of Sep *Jefferson, Des Moines, Story,* and *Linn* (m.ob.). Last on 18 Oct at Black Hawk Creek Wildlife Center *Grundy* (DGE).

Canada Warbler: High count of 5 on 5 Sep at Big Rock City P *Mari-on* (RMcP). Last observed 20 Sep at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RWR).

Wilson's Warbler: High of 8 on 29 Aug at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (SLo). Last observation 3 Oct at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* (SMF).

Summer Tanager: Mostly singles, but 5 reported on 6 Aug at Slip Bluff CP *Decatur* (Selena Birgit Kiser). Last was one on 5 Nov at Tedesco ELC *Story* (PMi).

Scarlet Tanager: The last was one in a Polk City yard *Polk* on 9 Oct (AB).

WESTERN TANAGER: One at a Johnston yard *Polk* 6 Sep (*DTh-doc).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: High count of 18 on 10 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last on 15 Oct at South Skunk R Tr *Story* (SSP).

Blue Grosbeak: Recorded in 18 counties (m.ob.). Six were seen on 15 Aug on private property in *Woodbury* (POR). Last seen on 14 Sep at Anderson WA *Montgomery* (SLo).

Indigo Bunting: Numerous reports of 10–15 birds in the early fall (m.ob.). Last was one on 13 Oct north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW_i).

Dickcissel: High count of 20 on 5 Aug at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (TJD). Last reported 21 Oct at Hoffman Woods *Buchanan* (WV).

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Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch Report, Fall 2020

Earl Johnson

This was a slow season overall at Hitchcock Hawk Watch, with 6243 migrant raptors recorded, making it the second lowest count in 19 seasons of data collection. The highest daily count of the season fell on 5 October, with 309 migrants recorded. Raptor diversity was typical, with 19 species detected over the course of the count period. The Hawk Watch was open for approximately 725 hours this season, with the passage rate of raptors at 8.6 birds per count hour. The only species posting a record high count this year was Ferruginous Hawk, with a total of four. Record low counts for the Hawk Watch were seen in the totals of Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Golden Eagle. A warmer autumn than usual and the unusual severity of the wildfire season to the west may have contributed to the differences seen in this year's fall flight. As we all know, even though it is undeniably fun to have many busy migration days, the very low counts of the slowest of days are data too! The general reduction in numbers of raptors passing the tower in recent years is very interesting, and it will be fascinating to see what the data show in the years to come. Keeping track of changes over the passage of time is what hawk watching is all about!

Table 1. Raptor counts at Hitchcock Nature Center during the fall 2020 season.

Species	Individuals	Species	Individuals
Black Vulture	0	Golden Eagle	8
Turkey Vulture	3468	American Kestrel	90
Osprey	93	Merlin	28
Bald Eagle	545	Peregrine Falcon	31
Northern Harrier	88	Prairie Falcon	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	237	Gyr Falcon	0
Cooper's Hawk	170	Mississippi Kite	3
Northern Goshawk	2	Accipiter species	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Buteo species	18
Broad-winged Hawk	398	Eagle species	1
Red-tailed Hawk	819	Falcon species	0
Rough-legged Hawk	11	Unspecified raptor	8
Swainson's Hawk	206	Total Individuals	6243
Ferruginous Hawk	4	Total Hours	725

SPECIES ANALYSIS

Nineteen species were recorded this year (Table 1), with individual numbers lower than average predominating. A notable exception was Turkey Vulture, whose numbers were



Figure 1. Osprey, Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie, 20 September 2020. Photograph by Earl Johnson, Longmont, CO.

up 22% from the previous year. Four Ferruginous Hawks were detected, which is a good number for this species, and producing the only all-time high count experienced this year.

Ospreys (Figure 1) were slightly below historical average, with a high count of 11 on 22 September. Bald Eagles were below the average count as well, but up 37% from an unusually low

2019 count. The high count for this species was on 15 November 15, with a total of 110. Northern Harrier and the accipiter species were all significantly below average numbers, with Sharp-shinned (Figure 2) and Cooper's producing the second and third lowest totals ever, respectively.

Broad-winged Hawk counts were up slightly from the previous year, and Swainson's Hawks showed in the highest numbers since 2014. An impressive 119 individual Swainson's Hawks were seen on 30 September.

The Hawk Watch experienced a record low count of Red-tailed Hawks this season. Incredibly, a single day's count on 23 October 2009 produced more individuals of this species than the 2020 season's entire total count. It is believed that migration habits of Red-tailed Hawk are changing, though exactly what is happening and why



Figure 2. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie, 14 September 2020. Photograph by Earl Johnson, Longmont, CO.

is poorly understood at present. All-time low counts were tallied for Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle as well. American Kestrel numbers were up



Figure 3. Peregrine Falcon, Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie, 6 October 2020. Photograph by Earl Johnson, Longmont, CO.

from the previous year, but fewer Peregrine Falcons (Figure 3) were detected.

A few items of interest regarding non-raptors bear mentioning. After an ice storm on 10 November, three flocks totaling 84 of what appeared to be American Golden-Plovers were photographed

moving south. Some noteworthy species seen from

the tower during the season included Horned Lark, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Red Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, Northern Shrike, and Spotted Towhee. A nocturnal flight call recorder was set up near the campground which produced sporadic recordings. This instrument detected calls tentatively identified as Clay-colored and Nelson's sparrows, among other species, migrating on the night of November 12.

Bird lists for the tower and the general area of Hitchcock for every day the author was present are viewable on eBird at: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L70754>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of its volunteers as well as the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, and everyone involved in this valuable service deserves a big pat on the back! Here's to many more years of Hitchcock Hawk Watching!

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2020 Raptor Banding at Hitchcock Nature Center

Jerry Toll

One hundred seven raptors of six species were captured during the fall 2020 season. This marked the 14th season of raptor banding at Hitchcock.

Of the 68 Red-tailed Hawks banded, 45 were aged as first year, 6 were second year, and 17 were aged as after second year. There was one dark morph *Buteo jamaicensis harlani* and 7 light morph *B. j. harlani*. Twelve were of the western subspecies *B. j. calurus*, one *B. j. kriderii*, and the remainder were of the eastern subspecies *B. j. borealis*.

Unusual was a high incidence of low fat scores (N=26). All but one of these occurred in juveniles. Anomalies occur most seasons and this season it was a Red-tailed Hawk with one more than the typical 12 tail feathers.

There were 18 Cooper's Hawks banded, of which 9 were aged as first year, one as second year, 7 as after second year, and one as after hatch year. There were 7 males and 11 females. This is the most that has been banded since 2015, when 24 were banded.

Seventeen Sharp-shinned Hawks were banded, of which 11 were aged as first-year, 4 as second-year, and 2 as after-second-year. There were 3 males and 14 females.

One Swainson's Hawk was banded, aged as a second-year. This is the third record for this species.

The first Rough-legged Hawk was banded in the 14-year history of the banding station (Figure 1). I was surprised by the relatively small size of its feet and its overall large size. It weighed more than most Red-tailed Hawks and its wing chord was also larger than a Red-tail's. It was a female that was aged as a first year.

Two Merlins were banded and both were aged as first-year males of the *columbarius* (taiga) subspecies.



Figure 1. Rough-legged Hawk, Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie, 29 November 2020. Photograph by Monte Smith, Omaha, NE.

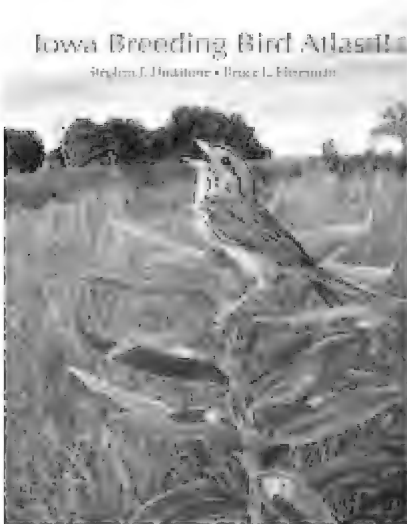
EFFORT

The banding station opened on 12 September 2020 and was closed for the last time on 7 December. Daily banding occurred through 1 November and subsequent banding occurred when ideal weather conditions and time permitted. Sandy Reinken and I logged 340 hours. There were 61 banding sessions during this period. To date, 4,507 hours have been spent in the banding station over the 14-year history of the project. The average is 347 hours per season.

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Book Review: *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II*

W. Ross Silcock



Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II by Stephen J. Dinsmore and Bruce L. Ehresman. 2020. 474 pp., Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Ames, IA., ISBN 978-1-03-411111-5, \$35.00 (softcover).

As has become standard procedure for statewide breeding bird atlases, Iowa published its second effort in 2020. Several states, including Iowa neighbors Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, have now published initial and follow-up versions of breeding bird atlases. The importance of a follow-up version becomes clear when one sees the many changes in breeding status and range revealed by comparing the species accounts in the two atlases. It seems that a 20-year gap or so has become standard between atlas efforts, enough time to detect important changes in the breeding status and distribution of a state's breeding birds.

This second atlas is a joint effort between Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). IOU raised funds, both from IOU itself and, creatively, by auctioning species page accounts, to cover publishing costs, while IDNR and a US Fish and Wildlife

Service grant funded project coordinators and field surveyors. As well, a large number of volunteers took part, an essential component of a cost-effective atlas project. The use of paid personnel I believe is an important component, especially with respect to expertise in data management and to facilitate atlas work in remote blocks generally of less interest to volunteers.

Overall, I found this second atlas (BBA2) to be well-presented, albeit not nearly as glossy and large as some neighboring states' efforts, but workman-like and quite sufficient to achieve its purpose in a cost-effective way. It is, nevertheless, exemplary in its depth of science-based analysis of the results and comprehensive descriptions of the status of Iowa's breeding birds as revealed by the survey results. The heart of the atlas, and the strength of all follow-up atlas efforts, is the resulting ability to present data from the first and second atlases on the same or, in this case, facing pages, as well as an informative summary of the breeding status of each species in the state. I found this very well done; extensive citation of the literature and, importantly, the provision of context by comparison with species' status in neighboring states, led to exemplary treatments.

The atlas contains a useful and well-presented section on "Iowa's Physical Environment and Landforms," emphasizing their geologic origins, an area of study that until the last few years has not been well understood in relation to avian phylogeography.

The section on block allocation contains much detail and clearly describes how "grid" and "habitat" blocks were allocated. Grid blocks are located in every other town-range land survey township, an advantage of atlasing in Iowa. A detailed process was described in which habitat blocks were placed in such a way as to ensure representation of each of the major habitat types that occur in the state. I found it intriguing and a refreshingly sound approach in ensuring an unbiased result to have a person "unfamiliar with Iowa's birds" execute the habitat block selection process.

The results of atlas projects are generally summarized through comparisons with prior effort(s). Despite somewhat less effort in BBA2, 13.5 surveying hours per block versus 17 hours in BBA1, the average species count per block was identical in the two projects, at 74. In all, 196 species were detected during BBA2 and one species, Alder Flycatcher, was added to the state's list of confirmed breeding species. The changes in status are well-summarized in the "Results" section; noteworthy to me were the findings that grassland birds such as Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow increased in detections presumably due to the expanded grassland restoration efforts undertaken in Iowa, and that westward expansions of forest birds such as Broad-winged Hawk and Pileated Woodpecker occurred, presumably as riparian forests continue to mature westward along major waterways.

I applaud the group responsible for this outstanding atlasing effort, well-planned and well-organized, adequately funded, and with highly qualified scientific leadership. It is a major contribution to the science of avian distribution and breeding status, not only in Iowa, but in the surrounding multi-state region.

The corresponding website, where one may order a copy, is found at <https://iowabba2.org/>.

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Book Review: *Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season*

Tyler M. Harms



Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season by Roger F. Pasquier. 2019. 304 pp., 85 b/w illus. 4 maps, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, ISBN 978-069-117855-4, \$29.95 (hardcover).

Winter—the season for which most of us northern birders are least excited each year. Coming off the high of fall migration, the birding activity drops as quickly and in nearly the same magnitude as the temperature, and our desire to look for and learn about birds during this time follows suit. We're not alone, because until recent years, even ornithologists knew very little about a bird's winter. Interest in this critical portion of the annual cycle is rapidly growing, however, and conservation efforts for some of our most imperiled species have expanded beyond the breeding grounds to migration and wintering areas. Thus, *Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season*, by Roger F. Pasquier (hereafter *Birds in Winter*), is a timely read for those interested in broadening their knowledge about birds during the off-season.

Birds in Winter is a collection of ten chapters that logically walks the

reader through a bird's preparation for and activity during these demanding months. Each chapter is well researched (the 31-page bibliography is proof of this claim) and provides a comprehensive summary of the science available on each topic, ranging from preparing for winter to daily activity and survival. As someone interested in habitat associations, I very much appreciated learning about how different species partition resources among different competing migratory and resident species on their wintering grounds (Chapter 3: "Winter Ranges and Habitat Selection in Migratory Birds"). In addition, one can expect to be enlightened with fun facts about a variety of species spanning nearly every bird family. For example, did you know that the Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) has a semi-tubular tongue that is unique among warblers and allows them to exploit nectar resources on their wintering grounds in the West Indies? I would be very surprised if, after reading this text, you learned nothing new.

Despite providing a wealth of information, *Birds in Winter* is certainly not what I would consider a "light" read. In fact, I often felt as if I was paging through one of my college textbooks rather than my before-bed novel. However, the exquisite line drawings from artist Margaret La Farge scattered throughout the 250 written pages are a treat when the text is getting a bit dense. While I appreciate the amount of detail provided by the author on the various topics, I often found myself wanting to move on to the next topic after reading several similar examples to explain a point. And the small font makes the pages of each chapter turn a bit slower than what you might expect. In summary, if you decide to plunge into this book, be prepared for a "long haul".

Nearly one-third of all birds regularly seen in Iowa spend at least six months of their annual life at or en route to their wintering grounds. It's important, and I would argue empowering, for us to learn about "the most challenging season" for birds. *Birds in Winter* is a great resource for this purpose. And what better time to dive into this educational reading? Why not winter?

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting Minutes

12 December 2020

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) meeting was held via video meeting. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Attending were Treasurer Tom Dougherty, Secretary Katie Byerly, and Directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Sharon Bauer, Curt Nelson, and Wendy VanDeWalle.

BUDGET REPORT: Tom Dougherty shared the 2021 proposed budget. The proposed budget suggests a net income of \$3000, but usual project expenses are \$5000. This projects a net loss of \$2000. Tom pointed out that the 2021 revenue is expected to be lower due to COVID-19 and the possibility that we would not be hosting meetings/events.

Proposed IOU Budget

REVENUE

Membership Dues	\$15,000
Net Meeting Revenue	\$ 500
Silent Auction	\$ 500
Donations	\$ 550
Interest	\$ 350
Total Revenue	\$16,900

EXPENSES

Iowa Bird Life	\$11,600
Insurance	\$ 850
Other publications	\$ 750
Bank expense	\$ 600
Misc	\$ 100
Total Expenses	\$13,900

NET INCOME	\$ 3,000
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USUAL PROJECT EXPENSES	\$ 5,000
------------------------	----------

NET LOSS	\$ 2,000
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Tom shared that this is consistent with other years.

Tom also shared the Memorial Fund donations from 2003-2020. There is a total amount of \$57,016 in this account. We have not spent any of these funds and Tom suggested a plan be developed for these funds. The board would like the Projects Committee to spearhead a use for these funds.

Tom had information regarding memberships. The board was shown an outline of the different types of membership fees a member could choose from

and how many chose each category. Dues collected therefore depend on how much each member chooses to donate each year.

2019 membership	351 members	\$14,840 dues collected
2020 membership	361 members	\$15,295 dues collected

Diane moved to approve the 2020 IOU budget with Sharon seconding. All members voted in favor of approving the budget. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

IOU BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: The IOU Breeding Bird Atlas is close to being completed for purchase. The project will be completed under budget. \$15,945 was allocated for the project and \$9,780 was spent. This leaves over \$6000 unspent from the project. The board has a proposal that those funds be used to send copies of the atlas to county board conservations, bird friendly cities, and colleges, etc.

The purchase price for each book is \$35 with a \$3 profit on each book. Discussion was held regarding the proposal. The board had questions about the uses and distribution especially if the information is also available on the internet. There was a suggestion that the atlas be sent to the colleges and not the counties. The board decided to postpone the decision and Dennis will acquire more information regarding the proposal.

ZOOM LICENSE: The board received a suggestion that a Zoom license be purchased at the price of \$150 a year. A Zoom meeting could be held with up to 100 participants and a one-time meeting of 300 participants. The contract can be changed monthly. It was suggested that the Events committee could be responsible for finding content for Zoom meetings. Dennis will reach out to the Events committee regarding this. The board suggested topics for meetings such as a review on the new BBA publication or a lesson on eBird. The board had many positive thoughts about how this could be used including the concern that a spring meeting still might not be feasible and Zoom meetings might be used. Diane moved that a Zoom license be purchased with Dennis seconding. The board unanimously carried the motion.

Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded and the meeting ended at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Byerly, Secretary

IOU Financial Reports

Tom Dougherty

IOU

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
5200 Meeting Income	-76
5300 Merchandise Sales	65
5900 Interest Income	1,052
Donations	
5100 Donations - Unspecified	600
5101 Donations - Amazon.com	110
5120 Donations - Bequests, Memorials	50
Tetrault Memorial	1,280
Total 5120 Donations - Bequests, Memorials	1,330
5140 Donations - Publications	25
5150 Donations - Breeding Bird Atlas	925
Total Donations	2,990
Dues	
4012 Fledgling Dues	130
4020 Goldfinch Dues	2,250
4035 Bluebird Dues	6,650
4050 Baltimore Oriole Dues	4,550
4075 Great Egret Dues	825
4100 Osprey Dues	2,600
4250 Bald Eagle Dues	500
4500 Peregrine Falcon Dues	1,000
4800 Library Subscriptions	620
Total Dues	19,125
Total Income	\$23,156
GROSS PROFIT	\$23,156
Expenses	
6600 Insurance-Liability	658
6900 Bank & Pay Pal Exp.	357
Committees	
6708 Committees - Conserv/Proj	885
Total Committees	885
Officers	
6847 Officers - Treasurer	75
Total Officers	75
Publications	
6110 Publications - IA Bird Life	16,686
6120 Publications - Internet Svc	540
6150 Publications - Software, Photo, Video Sites	503
6160 Publications - Field Checklists	21
6170 Publications - 2020 Breeding Bird Atlas	9,665
Total Publications	27,414
Total Expenses	\$29,389
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -6,233
NET INCOME	\$ -6,233

IOU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1150 Checking - 1st Citizens	24,959
1450 Checking - Comm 1st CU	97,974
1550 Savings - Comm 1st CU	5
PayPal	2,526
Total Bank Accounts	\$125,464
Total Current Assets	\$125,464
TOTAL ASSETS	\$125,464
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3220 Projects	1,447
3300 Memorial Fund	58,346
General Operating Fund	71,825
Opening Bal Equity	80
Net Income	-6,233
Total Equity	\$125,464
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$125,464

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The January 1971 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* starts with compiler John Faaborg's summary of the 1970 Christmas bird count. Twenty-nine counts were held in Iowa with 111 species found, slightly fewer than the previous year. Davenport had the most species (74) with Clinton (62) and Red Rock (a new count with 58 species) the next most. Many raptors were found with 141 Northern Harriers and 55 Short-eared Owls but only 71 Bald Eagles. The 75,000 Snow Geese at Shenandoah was the high count. Good finds were Ferruginous Hawk, Turkey Vulture, and two Orange-crowned Warblers.

The annual report on bird banding in Iowa, compiled by Dean Roosa, reported that 21,211 birds of 151 species were banded. The Iowa Conservation Commission banded the most (9,053) with the Keith Laytons (3,209) and Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs (2,609) having the next greatest totals. More than 2,300 Blue-winged Teal, Mourning Doves, and Mallards each were banded to top all species. Among the more interesting birds banded were six Say's Phoebe, two Bewick's Wrens, and one each Pine Warbler and Cerulean Warbler. The latter was thought to be the first banded in Iowa.

An article by Joseph Brown describes the birding areas of Des Moines and Polk County. Among the sites described are several that are still familiar to birders: Waterworks Park, Walnut Woods State Park, Brown's Woods, Brenton's Slough, Jester Park, Gray's Lake, Dale Maffitt Reservoir, and Ankeny Ponds (aka Errington Marsh). Saylorville Dam was still being built but you could access overlooks from each end and view the then waterless site of Saylorville Reservoir. A good map accompanies the article.

The fall 1970 migration was described as poor for shorebirds, warblers, and sparrows but good for raptors. Winter 1970-71 seemed to be equally dull with single Orange-crowned Warblers at Lamoni and Cedar Rapids the best finds. A short note described a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found in Ringgold County in May 1970.

The cover art, a very nice drawing of a Canada Goose, was done by a 15-year-old Bettendorf student named Brian Wheeler.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), 1 April for spring issue [2], 1 July for summer issue [3], 1 October for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEBSITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and email changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Purple Finch, Sparks Cemetery area, *Boone*, 19 October 2020. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Cedar River Crossing, *Johnson*, 5 September 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

PRINTER: Carter Printing Company, Des Moines, IA.



CONTENTS

In Memoriam: Thomas H. Kent
by *Carl J. Bendorf*.....1

Clinton County Breeding Black-Bellied Whistling-Ducks
by *James McCoy*.....4

Lesser Goldfinch in Des Moines County
by *Chuck Fuller*.....6

Roseate Spoonbill at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area
by *Mark Brown*.....7

Meet an Iowa Birder: Linda Rudolph
by *Stuart Sparkman*.....8

Field Reports—Fall 2020
by *Brandon Caswell and Dean Hester*.....10

Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch Report, Fall 2020
by *Earl Johnson*.....40

2020 Raptor Banding at Hitchcock Nature Center
by *Jerry Toll*.....43

Book Review: *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II*
by *W. Ross Silcock*.....44

Book Review: *Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season*
by *Tyler M. Harms*.....46

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting Minutes
by *Katie Byerly*.....48

IOU Financial Reports
by *Tom Dougherty*.....50

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by *James J. Dinsmore*.....52

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Spring 2021 • Volume 91 • Number 2



IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Errata: We regret an error in *Iowa Bird Life* 91(1). The photo legend for the center right photo on page 27 misidentified the bird as a Gray-cheeked Thrush. It is a Swainson's Thrush.

Type 1 Evening Grosbeak in Iowa

Clayton Will and Tom Dougherty

Having seen the listserv report of an Evening Grosbeak at the Saylorville Reservoir Visitor Center *Polk* the afternoon of 16 January 2021, and with no reports of the bird the next day, the senior author decided to check for the grosbeak at Jester Park the morning of 18 January. He entered the park at the west entrance, drove past the nature center and took the road towards the golf course. Along that road, near a ravine, he started to hear calls he did not recognize. He drove slowly ahead hoping to see the birds, but they were nowhere to be found. The birds were still calling so he decided to record them using the video on his camera. There was not a bit of breeze and the calls seemed to be pouring down from overhead near a mix of pines and hardwoods by the old caretaker's house. Although he was not able to get a visual of the birds making the calls, he did manage to get some good audio.

He shared the recording with a few birding friends who suspected Evening Grosbeaks. The recording made it to the junior author so he could make a spectrogram of the recording (Figure 1) and compare it to the species accounts in Nathan Pieplow's *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America* (Pieplow 2017). Tom also uploaded the audio file to Cornell University's online bird sound identification website <https://birdnet.cornell.edu/api/> to verify that the flight calls were that of an Evening Grosbeak. As expected,

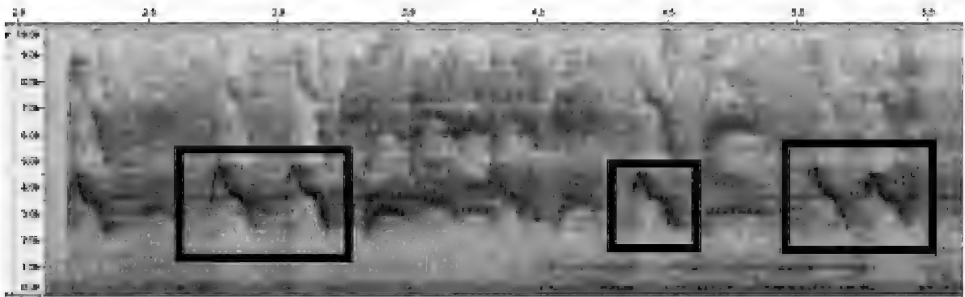


Figure 1. A spectrogram is a picture showing the change in pitch, or frequency, of the sounds of the song or call. The axis across the top of the page is the time in seconds. This segment of the recording shown in the image is about 3.5 seconds of the audio recording. The remaining part of the audio has been left off for ease of viewing. The axis on the left is the frequency of the sound measured in hertz. The top of the axis is 10,000 hertz, which is about the upper limit for most people's hearing ability. The downward sloping lines highlighted in the boxes indicate call notes of the Type 1 birds while in flight. The other calls in the sonogram (not highlighted) are what Pieplow calls 'breet' calls but he says they are variable and not known to be separable from other EVGR types.

the Cornell site suggested the birds in the audio were indeed Evening Grosbeaks.

When Tom looked at Pieplow's Eastern U.S. book, these call notes were not shown for the type of Evening Grosbeaks normally seen and heard in the

Eastern U.S., including Iowa, which is called a Type 3. He knew that there were regional variations in Evening Grosbeak calls so he dug out a copy of Pieplow's Western U.S. book (Pieplow 2019) and compared the spectrograms of four sub-types found in the West to the spectrogram from Jester Park.

Surprisingly, these call notes matched up to the Type 1 Evening Grosbeak, the most common type found in the Western U.S. The spectrogram of Clayton's audio recording highlights the clear, distinctly down slurred "Peer" calls of the Type 1 Evening Grosbeak (Pieplow 2019). Interestingly the call notes in Clayton's file showed two very close together, much closer than the one second interval shown in Pieplow's book, indicating that at least two individual Type 1 birds were calling at the time. Although it cannot be said with certainty, there is no indication from the sonagram that any other types were present.

Clayton listened to the Type 1 and Type 3 calls on the Cornell website allaboutbirds.com and it sounded like Type 1 to him also. He sent the audio file that Tom had created from the video to Matt Young of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Young concurred with the identification. This is the first known Type 1 Evening Grosbeak documented in Iowa. According to eBird (2021), this is the easternmost record, with the closest record in Western Nebraska, 600 miles away. Most Iowa Evening Grosbeak reports have not been identified to type.

Clayton greatly appreciates the help from these birding friends in identifying these birds.

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White Ibis in Johnson County

Ann Johnson

On 8 August 2020 Kevin Ripka reported a White Ibis at Hawkeye WA, *Johnson*, to eBird with the comment “Immature bird with white rump. I called it with other birders there and they said it was unlikely. But now someone else reported and, checking Sibley, white ibis it’s [*sic*] the only immature ibis with a white rump”. The following day Jess Painter reported “Smaller than great egrets with distinctly Ibis shaped bill. Darkish brown overall with white rump. Lacking any reddish tones seen in white faced or glossy Ibis. Seen at great distance through scope but also confirmed by other birders later in week with photos”.

On 10 August Noah Arthur followed up on these reports with the comments “Juvenile waaay far out, viewed from the closed parking lot with stacked picnic benches on Amana Rd. Ibis with black-brown/brown-black back, paler dusky head and neck, and white stomach that extended up around shoulders as messy pale ‘backpack straps.’ White rump and underwings seen in flight.” He was able to get several photos and subsequently provided documentation to the Iowa Records Committee for review. His report to the IA-BIRD listserv resulted in several people searching with negative results.

His report was accepted by the Records Committee as the second White Ibis recorded in Iowa. The first was seen in the same general location of Coralville Reservoir from 5–16 September 1995 (Kent).

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Meet an Iowa Birder: Mark Brown

Stuart Sparkman



Figure 1. Mark Brown at Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 24 January 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Should you find yourself pursuing an unusual bird in or near Johnson County, there is a good chance you will cross paths with IOU member Mark Brown (Figure 1). Mark, a cytotechnologist for the University of Iowa Medical Center, is an avid birder who has recently been very focused on Johnson County listing. But a wider view finds a photography enthusiast who, from a young age, has been fascinated by all things that creep, crawl, or fly.

Mark and his wife, Matsalyn, live in North Liberty with their two children, Russell and Navina. Mark was raised in Fort Dodge and attended Iowa State University, graduating with a degree in zoology. He works in anatomic pathology, screening cytologic samples for cancer and other diseases, and also teaching as a part of various training events. Like many of us, much of his

free time is occupied by pursuing his avian quarry. Mark is an avid eBirder, an area leader for the Iowa City Christmas Bird Count, a member of the IOU Records Committee, and contributed data toward the recently published *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II*.

In his early life, Mark's family was not specifically enamored of birds, but did take a definite interest in the natural world in general. As a teen, Mark took up photography, and this became his avenue into a love of insects, herptiles, and birds. He enjoyed the challenge of photographing wild creatures in the field, and the later challenge of identifying the species he was able to capture in images. As an adult Mark became acquainted with birders Sharon and Jim Scheib. One memorable outing with them found him at Crex Meadows, Wisconsin seeking the elusive Sharp-tailed Grouse. The enthusiasm for birds among the other participants was contagious, and he soon found himself wanting to see as many birds as he possibly could. Mark joined IOU soon afterward, in 2004. His first Christmas Bird Count followed, his experiences with Diana Pesek and James Huntington sparking his evolution from casual to hard-core birder. While participating in the Iowa City CBC he was invited to join in on a journey to Saylorville Reservoir to spot a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Once he had a taste of the chase, Mark was hooked on birding for good.

Mark has had a few opportunities to bird beyond Iowa's borders. He was

able to squeeze a little birding around the margins of a visit to his mother's family in Taiwan, and has also birded in France and the Caribbean. Mark enjoyed IOU trips to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 2007 and to California in 2009. To his great fortune, Mark's parents currently live in Mesa, Arizona, so family visits always have great birding potential. On the home front, he makes frequent forays to his home patch, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, and Iowa City's Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, appreciating the great variety of habitats and birds between these two sites. Mark aspires to some exciting birding locales in the future, including the Atlantic coast for pelagics, Alaska, Latin America, and Africa.

Asked to relate some special birding memories, Mark recalled a chase early in his birding career for a Northern Hawk-Owl in Worth County. He missed it, visiting on the first day the bird was not seen. Though disappointed, he was undaunted and made a successful return trip a few days later, making the sighting more special for the effort. Similarly, ticking Black-tailed Gull and Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Iowa required more than one try.

When asked about favorite species, Mark mentioned his affinity for wood-warblers. On that topic he shared another birding anecdote that many of us can relate to, the quixotic quest to encounter, yea, to possibly see... a Connecticut Warbler. At least one good thing happened in the difficult year just past. Mark was birding with a friend at Hickory Hill Park in May when he got a call about a Connecticut Warbler at a distant part of the park. As the two were rushing to the indicated location they heard a different bird of the same species, which they stopped for and soon spotted. Three hours later Mark was still there and so, improbably, was the Connecticut Warbler, having given many fortunate birders their first or best looks at this ornithological unicorn. Mark's lovely photo of this cooperative individual can be found on page 140 of *Iowa Bird Life* Volume 90.

The year 2020 fulfilled another birding goal for Mark, as he and birding friend Brandon Caswell undertook a Johnson County Big Year. Each aimed to surpass the 255 species recorded by Tom Kent in 1990. Both of them were ultimately successful, with Mark eking out a win at 275 species, thanks in part to a December 31 Snow Bunting sighted in nearly the final daylight hour of the expiring year. One never knows what unusual birds will be visiting Johnson County and surroundings in the future. But, regardless of the species, IOU members can be confident that Mark Brown will be doing his best to document them through photographs, and can look forward to seeing more of his beautiful images in future issues of *Iowa Bird Life*.

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Subarctic Great Horned Owl

Clayton Will

On the morning of 20 January 2021 I had just checked on the Greater Scaup that had been at the Slater water treatment ponds. I decided to go south a mile to take gravel roads back home to Madrid for lunch. As I drove into Sheldahl, on the Story-Polk county line, I caught the glimpse of a shape that looked out of place in an old wooden corn crib window. After turning the truck around I was very pleased to see a Great Horned Owl making a perfect picture (Figure 1). Two men working on a building behind the owl drove right below this bird that only gave them a look and went back to resting. The exterior of the crib was a silver/white and I just thought the bird was picking up these colors. After I arrived home and posted pictures I was told this was the subarctic subspecies of Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*).



Figure 1. Subarctic Great Horned Owl, Sheldahl, Story, 20 January 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

I had a discussion with a very experienced birder as to whether I should make the location of this owl known because I had only heard of one subarctic Great Horned

Owl all of the previous winter, at my friend Bonnie Porter's house in Calendar, Webster County. I was reassured that this bird was of less sensitivity than some of the other owls and, given the location on private property and visibility from the road, interference with its activities would be minimal.

Many birders and photographers drove in from all around the state and were able to see this rare bird. Some even used it as an educational tool for their children!

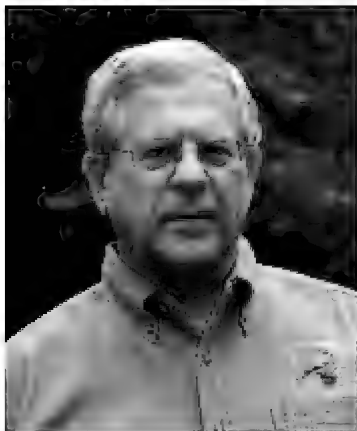
While birding in the area on 11 February, along toward evening I stopped by and watched the owl for a time near sunset. When I saw it doing what appeared to be a bill clap I realized it was going to expel a pellet. I was able to obtain video of it expelling a very large pellet.

The last I saw this bird was 19 February.

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Field Reports—Winter 2020–2021

Francis Moore



Francis Moore

WEATHER

Warmer than average conditions persisted through December with positive departures ranging from four to eight degrees statewide; northern Iowa reported the warmest conditions. December's statewide average maximum temperature was 36.8°F, 5.2°F above normal while the average minimum temperature was 17.6°F, 3.2°F above normal. Centerville *Appanoose* and Lamoni *Decatur* reported the month's high temperature of 66°F on the 10th, on average 29°F above normal. Mason City Municipal Airport *Cerro Gordo*, Northwood *Worth*, and Pocahontas *Pocahontas* reported the month's low temperature of -7°F on the 25th, on average 15°F below normal. Red Oak *Montgomery* also observed this low temperature on the 31st, 20°F below normal. Much of the northern half of Iowa experienced drier than normal conditions on the order of 0.5 inch to one inch; a few counties in northeast Iowa observed negative departures approaching 1.5 inches. Southern Iowa, in particular southeastern Iowa, reported above normal totals of similar magnitudes. Multiple winter systems moved through Iowa leaving behind measurable snow statewide. Over the month, above average snow totals accumulated from Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* northeast through Dubuque *Dubuque*; portions of central and eastern Iowa measured totals of four to six inches above average. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.12 inch at Ionia *Chickasaw* to 2.78 inches in Muscatine *Muscatine*. The statewide average snowfall was 8.4 inches, which is 0.1 inch above normal liquid-equivalent totals. Temperatures averaged 27.2°F or 4.3°F above normal, tying 1975 as the 48th warmest December on record. Precipitation averaged 0.94 inch or 0.40 inches less than normal, ranking it as the 54th driest (ties 1967). A warmer December occurred just last year while a drier one was last recorded in 2013. Drought and abnormally dry conditions remained across Iowa with drought boundaries remaining status quo. As of the first week of January, 61% of Iowa was covered in D0–D3 conditions; northwest Iowa remained the driest part of the state with 4% of D3 (Extreme Drought) remaining.

Northwest Iowa experienced the warmest conditions where positive departures of up to seven degrees were reported in the monthly averages. Cities in eastern Iowa reported average temperatures one to three degrees warmer than normal. January's statewide average maximum temperature was 31.1°F,

2.5°F above normal while the average minimum temperature was 16.5°F, 6.2°F above normal. Clarinda *Page*, Shenandoah *Page*, and Sioux City Airport *Woodbury* reported the month's high temperature of 52°F on the 20th, on average 20°F above normal. Elkader *Clayton* reported the month's low temperature of -14°F on the 29th, 20°F below normal. Most of the state's National Weather Service stations reported near normal to slightly above average precipitation during January. Several winter systems moved through Iowa leaving behind measurable snow statewide. Over the month, a band of 15–20-inch total accumulation ran from Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* through Waterloo *Black Hawk*. The first notable winter storm of 2021 occurred over the 14th and 15th with blizzard conditions observed in western Iowa. Measurable snow fell statewide with the highest totals over central and southwestern Iowa. One observer in Atlantic *Cass* measured 8.0 inches of snow while the statewide average was 3.5 inches. Over the next 10 days, a few fast moving systems propagated across the state leaving behind a few inches of snow. The strongest winter storm of the season so far pushed into Iowa on the 25th and 26th. Many locations across the southern two-thirds of Iowa reported snow totals above six inches. The highest snow totals of 14 inches were reported in Clarinda *Page* and Des Moines *Polk* with a band of 8–12-inch accumulations from southwest Iowa northeast through Waterloo *Black Hawk*. The statewide average total was 6.2 inches. Monthly precipitation (melted snow and sleet plus rain) totals ranged from 0.25 inch in Algona *Kossuth* to 4.00 inches in Marengo *Iowa*. Above average snowfall also blanketed much of Iowa with average snowfall of 12.6 inches, 4.9 inches above average. January 2021 ties 1949 as the 13th snowiest on record. Temperatures averaged 23.8°F or 4.4°F above normal, tying 1981 as the 29th warmest January on record. Precipitation averaged 1.02 inches or 0.10 inch more than normal, ranking it as the 63rd wettest (ties 1905 and 2018). A warmer January occurred in 2017 while a wetter was reported just last year. A more active storm track brought multiple winter systems through Iowa leading to above average precipitation, including heavy snow across west-central and eastern Iowa. Abnormally dry (D0) and drought conditions remained generally unchanged through January with 59% D0–D3 coverage at the start of the month. D0 retreated from central Iowa while a small section of Severe Drought (D2) in western Iowa was upgraded to Moderate Drought (D1). As of the end of January D0–D3 covered 53% of Iowa.

Frigid temperatures blanketed the state for a good portion of the first weeks of February due to an Arctic air outbreak from a bulge in the Polar Vortex. Average temperatures for February were anywhere from eight to 16°F below normal. The coldest period of the month was between the 7th and 16th when the average temperature was -5.2°F, 27.2°F below normal. Temperatures did not rebound to normal until the final eight days of February, when the average temperature for the period was a degree warmer than normal. February's statewide average maximum temperature was 20.7°F, 12.7°F below normal while the average minimum temperature was 4.4°F, 14.5°F below normal. Center-ville *Appanoose* and Donnellson *Lee* reported the month's high temperature of

59°F on the 27th, on average 16°F above normal. Battle Creek *Ida* and Mapleton *Monona* reported the month's low temperature of -35°F on the 16th, 48°F below normal. The reading from Mapleton *Monona* is the coldest temperature reported there since it began observation in 1937. Most of the state's National Weather Service stations reported near to slightly below average precipitation in February. The driest conditions were found across portions of southern and eastern Iowa while many western Iowa stations reported above normal totals. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.27 inches in Rock Valley *Sioux* to 2.06 inches in Augusta *Lee*. Unseasonably snowy conditions also blanketed much of Iowa with the statewide average snowfall totaling 11.2 inches, 4.4 inches above normal making it the 22nd snowiest in 134 years of snowfall records; Little Sioux *Harrison* measured the highest accumulation of 23.7 inches. Temperatures averaged 12.6°F or 11.4°F below normal while precipitation totaled 0.72 inch, 0.33 inch below normal. February 2021 was the 8th coldest and ties 1902 and 1907 as the 45th driest in 149 years of statewide observational records. A colder February last occurred in 2014 while a drier one occurred last year. Drought conditions remained generally unchanged during the first half of February with Abnormally Dry (D0) to Extreme Drought (D3) conditions covering 52% of the state. With additional snowfall and snowpack melt February ended with D0-D3 conditions covered 55% of Iowa with a recent expansion of D0 in northeastern Iowa.

Temperatures for the three winter months of December, January, and February averaged 21.2°F or 0.9°F below normal while precipitation totaled 2.82 inches, 0.49 inch below normal. Winter 2021 ties 1995 as the 63rd coldest winter with a colder one occurring in 2018. In terms of precipitation, it ties 1966 and 1985 as the 52nd driest; 2013 was drier. The statewide average snowfall was 32.2 inches, 9.4 inches above normal, making it the 12th snowiest in 134 years of records with 2018-2019 experiencing more snow.

GENERAL TRENDS

Goose numbers were near average with puddle duck numbers above average. Diving ducks were above average during the season. Highest numbers of waterfowl reports were from December and late February with fewer found in January, as is usually the case during winter. Overall duck numbers were above average during the period, with most of the reports and higher numbers showing up in early December and after 15 February. This year all three scoter species were found along with the usual Long-tailed Ducks.

Most gallinaceous bird numbers were higher compared to last year with almost all showing above average and numbers increasing from last year. There were seventeen reports for Northern Bobwhite and eighty-seven for Gray Partridge, indicating that Gray Partridge are still holding their own while Northern Bobwhite numbers are still on the low side but gaining numbers. Pheasant numbers are up considerably from last year. American White Pelicans were found in good numbers at Red Rock and Saylorsville Reservoirs with lower numbers found at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River.

Turkey Vulture reports were back to normal this year with some showing up in early migration in late December. The number of reports for Bald Eagles was somewhat higher than last year, and one and one-half times higher than the year before. Eagles were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River and at the Army Corps of Engineer impoundments as usual. Reports of accipiters were good this season with above average numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks this winter. There were about the same number of Northern Shrikes this year compared to last year and they were found mostly in the northern two-thirds of the state.

Gull reports were about the same or lower than last year with most reports coming from December and early January. For northern owl species, sixteen Snowy Owls were found, with slightly lower reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls. Long-eared Owl numbers were down from last year and Short-eared Owls were more numerous in December and early January with twice the number of reports compared to last year. Slightly higher numbers of Merlins were reported this year with good numbers of Peregrine Falcons and only one Prairie Falcon reported.

Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were more numerous in December and January with a few records from February, mostly in the northern and central parts of the state. There were slightly higher reports of longspurs and buntings than last year and about twice the number of Horned Larks. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Blackbirds made a good showing throughout the period. Winter finch numbers this winter were up from last year with reports of both crossbills this year. There were over forty reports of Common Redpoll this year compared to only one last year. There were very high numbers of Pine Siskins and reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches were back up this year after low numbers last year. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue to expand their range with one found in *Harrison*. We had the start of an Evening Grosbeak comeback this year after a multi-year hiatus for this species. A really great find was the third state record of a Lesser Goldfinch in West Des Moines. Three warbler species stayed late this year along with a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, two Summer Tanagers, and a Scarlet Tanager. Another Dickcissel remained into December like one did two years ago.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The Records Committee accepted records of eight species this winter, all of them accidental or casual in the state: Barrow's Goldeneye, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Yellow-billed Loon, Gyrfalcon, Varied Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, and Lesser Goldfinch. There were several unusual birds found this winter including LeConte's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

COMMENT

I really appreciate everyone submitting reports and providing material for this report. It was good to see nice details on some of the rarer species come with the reports that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for both rare species and common species on unusual dates. Without this information some species cannot be included in the report and an important report might be left out of the records that should be included; only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short physical description of the bird that allows for separation from any similar species. For many species, this can be one sentence. It does not take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time to make yourself aware of when some of our species are out of season and take short notes to make sure of the record.

Please keep entering your records on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union website so that they can continue to be added to the archives and be a part of our long-term database. There were 893 reports of 141 species entered into the IOU database this season by 40 observers at 198 locations in 56 counties over a total of 89 days (compared to 802 reports last year of 124 species by 40 observers at 210 locations from 52 counties over 86 days). We are also able to integrate eBird records into this report by downloading those records from the eBird database and merging it into the Iowa Ornithologists' Union records. There were 66,856 records from eBird this season that were merged into the regular IOU records, which made the entire output very large and made the total records more inclusive.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **CA** = conservation area, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **NW&FR** = national wildlife and fish refuge, **P** = park, **PI** = plumage, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **SP** = state park, **SRA** = state recreation area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Snow Goose: Highest numbers were 1135–7265 on 2–7 Dec at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawatomie* (Earl Johnson), 435–500 on 9–19 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Neal Ratzlaff, CY), and 600 on 20 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (RWR).

Ross's Goose: There were 156 reports this year from eight locations,

all of single birds. Highest number of reports, 133, came from Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (m.ob.), second highest number of reports, 11, came from Slater Water Treatment Ponds *Story* (m.ob.).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Highest numbers were 150–300 on 9–18 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (CY, CD), 100 on 26 Dec at Sunset

Dr Pond *Des Moines* (Nick Benson, Jason McCurdy), and 1000 on 28 Feb at Trumpeter P *Lee* (TMC).

Cackling Goose: There were 309 reports this year. Highest numbers were 50 on 11–17 Dec at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (JTi), 48 on 16 Dec at Higman Gravel Pit *Plymouth* (BFH), 50 on 15 Dec at Clinton *Clinton* (MR), 60 on 19 Dec *Linn* (KJM), and 65 on 17 Jan at Polk City WA *Polk* (POR).

Canada Goose: The largest concentrations were 10,000–13,000 on 16 Jan–4 Feb at Polk City WA *Polk* (CFr, AB, JB, RJT, JayJ) and 12,000 on 23 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (JayJ).

Mute Swan: One record this winter: 1–6 ad on 10 Dec–28 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (SMF, Robert Walsh, TMu, FSS, JF, GDe, SDe, BLK, TM).

Trumpeter Swan: There were 737 reports from around the state this winter, mostly in the east with numerous reports from the west and southwest. Highest counts were 313 on 9 Dec at Otter Creek M *Tama* (KS), 437–490 on 4–7 Jan at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (JayJ, CW), 315 on 29 Jan at L Wapello SP *Davis* (Dean Colton), and 315 on 2 Feb at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (AB).

Tundra Swan: There were 92 reports with a high count of 11–14 on 19–20 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM, MS), 14 on 27 Dec at River-view P *Dubuque* (KJAB), and 5 on 22 Feb at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM).

Wood Duck: Twenty-six reports this year after 9 reports last year. Highest numbers: 12 on 6 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (JBo) and 2 on 15

Dec at Otter Creek M *Tama* (BCC).

Blue-winged Teal: Two reports this season: one on 2 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO) and 2 on 28 Feb at Trumpeter P *Lee* (TMC).

Northern Shoveler: There were 182 reports this year after 40 last year. Highest numbers reported: 107 on 6 Dec at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (AB), 170 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), and 122 on 17 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB).

Gadwall: Reported throughout the period. There were 160 reports this year after 85 last year with highest numbers of 65 on 1 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB), 60 on 12 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (TW, DWa), and 105 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC).

American Wigeon: There were 86 reports this winter after 11 last year with highs of 7 on 1 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB) and 6 on 20 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (Mark & Deb Rolfes).

Mallard: The highest numbers reported were 7400 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 14,400 on 19 Dec at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (RDi, BFH), and 11,000 on 20 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

American Black Duck: There were 76 reports this year after 73 last year with most coming from eastern and central Iowa and one from northwest Iowa. Highest number was 3 on 8 Feb at Bee Branch Creek Greenway *Dubuque* (TM). Other reports were of one or 2 birds for each report.

Northern Pintail: There were 121 reports for the period after 68 last year. High counts were 60 on 1 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB), 50

on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 90 on 27 Feb at Brenton Slough *Dallas* (CW).

Green-winged Teal: There were 150 reports this year after 26 last year. High counts were 75 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 5 on Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 70 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Apanoose* (RLC).

Canvasback: A total of 147 reports were submitted this year after 55 last year with high counts of 3000 on 4 Dec L&D 19 *Lee* (Josh Engel), 23,500 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (JoM, SCr, MR, CJ), 1000 on 22 Dec at Linger Longer Rest Area *Lee* (EEO), and 14,000 on 18 Jan from Montrose to Keokuk *Lee* (MHB).

Redhead: High counts were 200 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (JoM, SCr), 30 on 18 Jan at River-view P, Montrose *Lee* (MHB), and 15 on 24 Feb at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (TNJ).



Ring-necked Duck, Iowa River Power Dam, Johnson, 10 January 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Ring-necked Duck: Highest numbers were 150–310 on 1–8 Dec at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (TNJ), 124–215 on 10–19 Dec at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer* (MWe), and 100 on 13

Dec at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (JT_i).

Greater Scaup: There were 45 reports this season after 12 last year with high counts of 6 on 6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT), 4 on 24 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB), 3 on 6 Feb at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (MKS, PMi, CPL), and 3 on 17 Feb at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (RLC).

Lesser Scaup: A total of 351 reports this winter after 154 last year. High counts: 2020 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (JoM, SCr, MR, CJ), 750 on 18 Jan from Montrose to Keokuk *Lee* (MHB), and 120 on 25 Feb at Mississippi R, Princeton *Scott* (MR).

Surf Scoter: All: 2 reported this year: 1–2 on 1–13 Dec at L Wapello SP *Davis* (TNJ, JJo, TMC) and one on 14 Dec at Mississippi R Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: All: one on 6–13 Dec at L Wapello SP *Davis* (TNJ, JJo, TMC) and one on 13 Dec at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (JT_i).

Black Scoter: All: 1–4 on 2–3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD, RLC, SCS), one on 7 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), a male on 6 Feb at Fort Madison, *Lee* (SJD-ph), and 2 on 28 Feb at Credit Island P *Scott* (FSS).

Long-tailed Duck: Fifty-seven reports this year after ten last year, most found along the Mississippi R. Highest numbers were 3 on 6 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (JT_i) and 5 on 22 Dec at Three Mile L *Union* (SJD). The rest of the records were of one or 2 birds.

Bufflehead: There were 117 reports this year after 48 last year with

highs of 32 on 6 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (JTi), 60 on 8 Dec at Riverview P, Montrose *Lee* (TNJ), and 30 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (JoM, SCr).

Common Goldeneye: High counts were 1000 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (JoM, SCr), 500–2000 on 26 Jan–23 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (TMu, WGH, GDe, SDe, SMF, JMc, BLK), and 500 on 16 Feb at Victory P *Lee* (TNJ).

Barrow's Goldeneye: One from 15–20 Dec at Slater Water Treatment Ponds *Story* (*AB-ph, RJT, * DyO-ph, WO, *CW-ph, *TJD-ph, KVS, PMi).

Hooded Merganser: High counts: 34 on 5 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB), 43 on 10 Dec at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (RJT), and 76 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Common Merganser: High counts: 2500 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 1100 on 20 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 9600 on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 7500 on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

Red-breasted Merganser: There were 34 reports this season after 12 last year. Highest numbers were 9 on 7 Dec at Big Creek SP *Polk* (CW), 8 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), and 6 on 26 Dec at Jack & Pat Bush Overlook *Scott* (WGH).

Ruddy Duck: There were 263 reports this year after 142 reports last year with high counts of 42–382 on 3–20 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, ABu, AB, RJT), 30 on 16 Dec at Otter Creek M *Tama* (BCC), and 32 on 18 Jan at Riverview P, Mon-

trose *Lee* (MHB).

Northern Bobwhite: Seventeen reports this winter compared to 9 last year with high counts of 11 on 19 Dec at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB) and 25 on 8 Jan near Wayland *Henry* (JJo, TMC, JGC).

Wild Turkey: High: 120 on 2 Jan at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (Jack Jackson), 111 on 2 Jan at John Deere Rd, Dubuque *Dubuque* (DAS), and 65 on 13 Jan *Poweshiek* (CPL).

Ruffed Grouse: No reports again this winter season after none were reported last year.

Gray Partridge: Eighty-seven reports this year after 20 reports last season with highs of 13–16 on 16 Jan near Iowa City *Johnson* (DH, SD, JBo), 13 on 11 Feb near Slater *Polk* (RJT), 13 on 13 Feb near Roland *Story* (MKS, PMi), and 16 on 22 Feb *Clay* (LAS).



Ring-necked Pheasant, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper, 11 February 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

Ring-necked Pheasant: There were 714 reports this year after 244 last year with the following high counts: 110 on 31 Dec at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (Kevin Powers), 75 on 2 Jan at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (WO), 200 on 4 Jan at Owego Wet-

land Complex *Woodbury* (GLV), 100 on 17 Jan at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DSi), and 65 on 22 Jan at Luton WA *Woodbury* (RWR).

Pied-billed Grebe: This year there were 51 reports after 5 reports last year; 44 were from the central part of the state, 5 from the eastern part of the state, and 2 from the west. All but 2 of the reports were in December this year with 2 from early February. All reports were of one or 2 individuals.

Horned Grebe: Two records: one on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, SCS) and one on 31 Jan at Lindsay P *Scott* (SMF).

Red-necked Grebe: One first year bird was found 1 Dec at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (MP).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Highest counts were 44 on 1 Jan near Dunbar Slough *Greene* (MTW), 35 on 10 Jan along Hwy 6, Iowa City *Johnson* (TW), and 450 on 18 Jan at Sioux City Cattle Farm *Woodbury* (POR).

Mourning Dove: High counts of 178 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (BRi, JW, RBr, CS, ZS), 80 on 2 Jan near Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (Allison McPherren, Ryan McPherren), 126 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (RWZ, BZ), 127 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (DK, JMa), 80 on 8 Jan at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (JKe), and 82 on 18 Jan at Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM).

Virginia Rail: One on 19 Dec–16 Jan at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (JLF).

American Coot: There were 59 reports this season after 39 last year with highs of 23 on 4 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KH) and 87 on 20 Dec at Gull Point SP *Dickinson*

(JTi).

Sandhill Crane: There were 9 reports this winter with high counts of 57 on 9–10 Dec at Otter Creek M *Tama* (KS, David Eastman), 284 on 15 Dec near Hwy 67 *Clinton* (MR), and 70 on 20 Dec at Pool Slough WA *Allamakee* (Steve Stucker). Six of the records were from Dec, one was from Jan, and 2 were from Feb.

Killdeer: There were 27 reports after 29 reports last year. Highest numbers were 5 on 12 Dec at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JMc), 6 on 15 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (TJD), and 3 on 26 Dec at West Liberty *Muscatine* (WGH). The rest of the reports were of one or 2 birds.

Least Sandpiper: One on 11 Dec at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JMc, good details).

Wilson's Snipe: Sixteen reports this year with 15 found in the eastern section of the state and only one in the central section. High numbers were 3–4 on 4–11 Dec at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB, JMc), 3 on 15 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (JKe), and 14 on 4 Jan at Montrose *Lee* (JLF). The rest of the reports were of one or 2 birds.

Sabine's Gull: Only one report of one juv on 1 Dec *Polk* (SJD-ph).

Franklin's Gull: All: one on 8 Dec at *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), one on 8 Dec at E Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS), and one alternate ad 18 Jan at Victory P, Keokuk *Lee* (MHB).

Ring-billed Gull: Highest numbers were 850 on 4 Dec at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB), 600 on 5 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (TW), 650 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 737 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, EN, CS), and

950 on 18 Jan at Riverview P, Fort Madison *Lee* (MHB).

CALIFORNIA GULL: Two records: one ad 20 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD) and one 2nd cycle 18 Jan and 6 Feb at Fort Madison *Lee* (*SJD-ph).

Herring Gull: High counts: 175 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 68 on 31 Dec at Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB), 75–250 on 9–25 Jan at L&D 15 *Scott* (WGH, SMF, BCC), 60 on 18 Jan at Riverview P, Fort Madison *Lee* (AB), and 100–320 on 2–20 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (SMF, WGH).

Iceland Gull: Forty-eight reports this winter after 109 reports last year and widely distributed in gull flocks at various large water impoundments and river dams in the central and eastern part of the state. Highest numbers: 1–2 on 2–26 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF, JG, AB), 2–3 on 9–26 Jan at L&D 15 *Scott* (JF, SMF), 2–5 9 Jan–3 Feb at Lindsay P *Scott* (JF), and 3–4 on 18–20 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (SMF). Many of the individuals that were reported from *Scott* moved between various locations in the Quad Cities area and were undoubtedly reported from those various locations multiple times.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 40 reports this winter for this species after 52 last year. This species was widely reported in gull flocks in central and eastern Iowa. High counts: one on 19 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TMH), 5 on 26 Jan at L&D 15 *Scott* (SMF), 2 on 27 Jan at Riverview P, Fort Madison *Lee* (JBo), 4 on 31 Jan–3 Feb at Lindsay P *Scott* (SMF, JF), and 5 on 20 Feb at

Le Claire *Scott* (SMF).

Glaucous Gull: There were 13 reports this winter after 57 last winter. Highest counts: one 1st cycle 15 Dec–1 Jan at Riverview P, Fort Madison *Lee* (TNJ, CF) and 2–3 (one ad, one 2nd cycle, one 3rd cycle) on 18–20 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (SMF, JF, WGH).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Only one record of one 1st cycle on 20 Feb under I-80 Bridge *Scott* (*JF-ph, GDe, SDe, SMF).

Pacific Loon: One juv on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Common Loon: Seven records this year after 2 last year: one on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC), one on 1–15 Dec at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* (Jesse Ellis, WV, JF), one juv on 4–9 Dec at L Wapello SP *Davis* (TMC, JJo), one on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), one on 6 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), one on 7 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS), and one on 10 Dec at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (RJT).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON: There was a juv on 14–15 Dec at Big Creek SP *Polk* (*AB-ph, *JB-ph, KVS, DyO, WO, RLC, RJT, SCS, CW, SJD, WV, BCC, Seth Chamberlain, TJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were 36 reports this year after ten last year. Highest numbers were 3–8 on 5–19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ, RLC). Other reports were of one or 2 birds found in the eastern section of the state.

American White Pelican: There were 264 reports throughout the period after 147 last year, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and

Red Rock Res *Marion*. High counts were 235 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 93 on 9 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 85 on 18 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

Great Blue Heron: There were 88 reports submitted after 46 last year with high counts of 13 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, CS), 11 on 21 Dec at Credit Island P *Scott* (SMF), and 41 on 18 Jan at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (MHB).

Turkey Vulture: There were five reports this year, a more normal number for the winter season, after ten last year. All: one on 8 Jan at Water Works P *Polk* (JoMc), one on 26 Feb at Iowa Crapo Sewer Trail *Des Moines* (Cindy Owsley), one on 27 Feb at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* (RA), and one on 28 Feb at Keokuk *Lee* (TMC, JGC).

Golden Eagle: There were 17 reports: 7 in Dec, one in Jan, and 9 in Feb, with 5 from the eastern part of the state, 8 from the central part of the state, and 4 from the western part of the state.

Northern Harrier: There were 205 reports this season after 312 last year with highs of 7 on 15 Dec near US 67 *Clinton* (MR), 9 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), and 7 on 18 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KJM, SH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A total of 115 reports, 13 from western Iowa, 42 in central Iowa, and 60 from eastern Iowa.

Cooper's Hawk: A total of 402 reports this year after 227 last year, with 169 from the central and 195 from the eastern section of the state and 38 from the west. Most reports were of single individuals with sev-

eral records of 2 along the Mississippi R.

Northern Goshawk: None reported this winter season.

Bald Eagle: There were 2747 reports after 2033 last year. High counts on the Mississippi R included 65 on 13 Jan *Clinton* (KJM) and 135 on 19 Jan *Louisa* (KJM). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 112 on 25 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 100 on 28 Dec near Percival *Fremont* (Joan Junkin), and 160 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (Jack Johnson).



Bald Eagle, Colfax, Jasper, 23 February 2021.
Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were 78 reports after 66 last year with highs of 2 from four locations and 4 on 27 Feb at Stephens State Forest *Lucas* (JG). Most reports were of one individual. Five were from central, 68 from eastern, and 5 from western Iowa.

Red-tailed Hawk: There were 26 Harlan's/dark morph and only 4 Krider's/light morph individuals reported this winter. High counts were 15 on 15 Dec near Clinton *Clinton* (MR), 12 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), 47 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (BRi, JW, RBr, CS, ZS),

and 46 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (DK, JMa).



Rough-legged Hawk, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper, 10 December 2020. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

Rough-legged Hawk: It was another great winter for this species with 462 reports totaling 559 individuals during the season. High counts: 6 on 25 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (JKe), 13 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (DK, JMa), 9 on 13 Feb *Woodbury* (GLV), and 21 on 20 Feb near Burlington *Des Moines* (SJD). There were 25 light morph and 24 dark morph individuals reported this season.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Fifty-one reports for this common nocturnal species, with highs of 6 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM, CJ), 12 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH), and 7 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Great Horned Owl: There were 287 reports and a total of 429 individuals of this common species after 168 reports last year. Highs were 9 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (MR, CJ), 8 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM, CJ), and 15 on 26 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa). A subarctic race Great Horned Owl was found from 20 Jan–10 Feb near Sheldahl on the *Story/Polk* line (CW, Diane Crookham-Johnson, AB, CPL, PMi,

EBr, KVZ).

Snowy Owl: This season there were 16 reported this year after one last year and 5 the year before: one on 7 Dec near Solon *Johnson* (Brad Friedhoff-ph), one on 11 Dec near Grand Mound *Clinton* (WV, BCC, TM, TDr), 1–2 on 12–23 Dec near Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, BVL, Jeremy Klatt, Mary Hodak, Tom Moon, MWe, Patrick Keenan, PL), one on 11–23 Dec near Montgomery and at Spirit L and Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (Pamela Wingert, LAS, JTi, John F Smelzer, DAB), one on 25–27 Dec near Webster City *Hamilton* (Jordan Satler, JuR-ph, HZ, ASp, MTW, Alan Brown, CW, EEO), one on 27 Dec–8 Jan near Lamoni *Decatur* (JRL), one on 4 Jan near Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (TMH), one on 8 Jan near Enterprise *Polk* (JoMc), one on 11 Jan near Yarmouth *Des Moines* (PB), one on 8–22 Jan at Clinton Municipal Airport *Clinton* (PB, TM, Arthur Mercado, TW, DWa, Barb Polglazo, Logan Wilson, JJo, TMC, MaM), one on 16 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), one on 3 Feb near Danville *Des Moines* (Vollie Rifner), one on 8 Feb near Crawfordsville *Washington* (Tony Lau), one on 15–17 Feb near Dysart *Benton* (Lisa Asmussen, TDr), one on 16 Feb near Terril *Dickinson* (DAB), and one on 18 Feb near Lawler *Chickasaw* (*fide* TGS).

Barred Owl: There were 322 reports of this common species during the period after 213 last year. Highs were 16 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (BRi, JW, RBr, CS, ZS), ten on 26 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa), 9 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM, FLM), and 9 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Long-eared Owl: Twenty-five reports this winter after 34 last year. Highest numbers: 5 on 19 Dec at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), 7 on 24 Jan at Saylorville WA *Boone* (AB), and 5 on 26 Feb at Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KVZ).



Long-eared Owl, High Trestle Trail, Boone, 27 March 2021. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.

Short-eared Owl: A total of 91 reports from across the state after 43 last year. Highest numbers reported were: 8 on 14 Dec–9 Jan at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (Karl Fliris, KVS, SCS, Dawn Gunderson), 6 on 10 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), and 6 on 9 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A total of 56 reports this winter: 2–3 on 5 Dec–30 Jan at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (MHB, Logan Melvin, Eric Miller, MS), 2–3 on 29 Dec–3 Feb at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP, JuR, ASp, DyO, Kelsey Smith, Katrina Fernald), and 2 on 29 Dec at

Volga River SRA *Fayette* (PDBS). Most of the reports were of single individuals, mostly found at four locations: Hickory Hill P, Lime Creek Conservation Area *Cerro Gordo*, George Wyth SP *Black Hawk*, and Saylorville Res *Polk*.

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 235 reports of 267 individuals, with high counts of 5 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM) and 8 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM, RWZ, BZ).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 165 reports this winter after 340 last year. Highs: 9 on 16 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM, CJ) and 14–20 on 18 Dec–4 Jan near Burlington *Des Moines* (BW).i).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: There were 3137 reports after 1961 last year with highs of 42 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH), 43 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, EN, CS), 48 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM), and 49 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: There were 46 reports from all areas of the state. Almost all were of a single individual of this species, with two reports of 2 birds.

Hairy Woodpecker: There were 1664 reports statewide after 917 last year with highs of 16 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH) and 20 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Northern Flicker: A total of 531 reports were submitted after 528 last year with high counts of 7 on 19 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), 13 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (Cathy Konrad), and 6 on 13 Feb at Des Moines *Polk* (ACu). There were also 2 Red-shafted records: one on 9–14 Feb at a Solon Res *Johnson*

(CRE) and one on 19 Feb at Chautauqua P *Jefferson* (Tom Ellsworth).

Pileated Woodpecker: A total of 259 reports of 326 individuals after 182 reports last year, with all but 2 records from the central and eastern sections of the state. Highs were 6 on 17 Dec *Scott* (JoM), 5 on 19 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa), and 5 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM, FLM). The 2 records from the western part of the state were one 20 Dec–1 Jan at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KH, Mitchell Bose, Jen Cerizo) and one 27 Dec–20 Jan at Stone SP *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).



American Kestrel, Rural Lone Tree, Johnson, 13 December 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

American Kestrel: There were 823 reports of a total of 1152 individuals after 483 reports last year. High counts were 17 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (JaM, Candy Egger, KS) and 20 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (DBaK, ABaK).

Merlin: A total of 113 were reported after 93 last year from 39 counties with a high of 2–4 on 1 Dec–3 Jan at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* (RJT, Chad Dolan, RA), 2 on 8 Dec at Aspen Grove Cemetery *Des Moines* (TNJ), 2 on 1 Jan near Dun-

bar Slough *Greene* (MTW), 2 on 2 Jan at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (KJAB), and 3 on 9 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG). Of those that reported races there were 3 *Falco columbarius columbarius* and 4 *F. c. richardsonii* reported this year.

GYRFALCON: One on 9 Jan at Schaller *Sac* (*DSi-ph).

Peregrine Falcon: All: 1–2 ad on 6 Dec–25 Feb at L&D 15 *Scott* (JLF, Richard Sayles, KJM, SMF, WGH), 1–2 on 19 Dec–9 Jan at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF, BWi), one ad on 25 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (TMH), one ad on 10 Jan at Dubuque County Courthouse *Dubuque* (Nathan Herman), one ad on 16 Jan at Villisca *Page* (CFr), one ad on 20 Jan at Clinton *Clinton* (BCC), one ad on 25 Jan at Iowa State University *Story* (PMi), and one on 24 Feb at Lansing *Allamakee* (RWZ, BZ).

Prairie Falcon: All: one on 16 Jan near Sioux City *Woodbury* (JP, BFH).

Loggerhead Shrike: One on 19 Dec at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (JLF).

Northern Shrike: There were 97 reports of 104 individuals this winter with most of them scattered over the northern two-thirds of the state except one from the southern third: one on 19 Dec *Taylor* (Corey Lange).

Horned Lark: There were 751 reports after 328 last year with highs of 300 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (MR, CJ), 355 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (DK, JMa), 1850 on 10 Feb *Boone* (DCH), 400 on 13 Feb *Woodbury* (GLV), and 350 on 13 Feb near Hitchcock County P *Cass* (KH).

Tufted Titmouse: There were 1083 reports after 486 last year with highs of 19 on 19 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa), 24 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (AF, PC), and 18 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (BRi, JW, RBr, CS, ZS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 509 reports of this species from throughout the state after 40 last year and 476 the year before. It looked like numbers were back to a more normal year and then this year had even more reports than two years ago. Could this be considered an invasion year also? Highs: 9 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 5 on 20 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (WO), 5 on 20 Dec *Muscatine* (HL, Jessica Bolser, GDW), 6 on 19 Jan at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (RGo), and 5 on 14 Feb at private residence *Polk* (Emily Cataldi).



Northern Shrike, Badger Creek Rec. Area, Madison, 6 December 2020. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

Brown Creeper: There were

234 reports with 281 individuals included. The highest numbers were 12 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH), 6 on 20 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (CPL), and 7 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, EN, CS).

Winter Wren: There were 51 reports from throughout the period with high counts of 8 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH) and 3 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM, FLM).

Sedge Wren: Only one report of one on 18 Dec at Greene Island WA *Jackson* (*KJM, SH).

Carolina Wren: There were 582 reports this season with a total of 661 individuals after 153 reports and 220 individuals last year. Most reports were of one or 2 individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of 7 on 6 Dec at West Oak Forest *Mills* (KH) and 21 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (AF, PC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Thirty-seven reports this season after 50 last year; most reports were of 1–3 individuals with a few higher counts. High counts were 6 on 6 Dec at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer* (MWe) and 5 on 17 Jan at Black Hawk Creek Wildlife Center *Grundy* (CPL).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Eight reports this year after ten last year, all reports were of single birds from six counties.

Eastern Bluebird: There were 235 reports this year after 373 last year with high counts of 18 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, EN, CS), 17 on 20 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (SSP), and 21 on 31 Dec at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (LAS).

Townsend's Solitaire: Four records this year: one on 27–28 Dec at Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve *Plymouth* (JP, BFH), 2 on 2 Jan at Loess Hills State Forest *Monona* (Sam Manning), one on 9–23 Jan at Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KVZ, POR, EBr), and one on 22 Feb at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (LAS).

Swainson's Thrush: One on 8 Dec in Tripoli *Bremer* (Kip Ladage-ph).

Hermit Thrush: Fifteen reports: highest 4 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM, CJ), 3 on 19 Dec at Brown's L *Woodbury* (RDi, KKa), and 2 on 26 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa).

American Robin: Numbers this winter were about the same as last winter with 598 reports for the season after 578 reports last year. High counts of 83 on 14 Dec at Big Creek WA *Polk* (WO), 510 on 7 Jan near Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi), and 412 on 28 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

VARIED THRUSH: One record this winter: one ad male 26 Dec–27 Jan near Cardinal Marsh WA *Winneshiek* (*Ellen Bell-ph, PDBS, Ryan Shakelford, BCC, BVL, SBa, Sheryl Galvey, BVe, JJo, TMC).

Gray Catbird: Two reports this winter of one on 10 Jan west of Mondamin *Harrison* (Janet Greer, Kerry King, Ned Greer) and one on 31 Jan at The Harvest Preserve *Johnson* (JMc).

Brown Thrasher: Six records this winter: one on 13 Jan at Rock Island Botanical State Preserve *Linn* (Andy Scanlon, Connor Ties), one on 5–19 Dec at Earlville *Delaware* (Maggie O'Connell), one on 10–31

Jan at Iowa City *Johnson* (Emily Hooley, David Weiss), one on 20–23 Jan in Ames *Story* (Adam Janke *fide* SJD, *fide* TMH), one on 30 Jan–1 Feb in *Cerro Gordo* (Curt Nelson), and one on 8 Feb at Coralville *Johnson* (Jill Beckman).

Northern Mockingbird: Six records this winter season: one on 4 Dec–21 Jan at Riverside *Washington* (Fawn Bowden), one on 19 Dec at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (JLF), one on 9 Jan at Red Rock Res *Mari-on* (SJD), one on 23–24 Jan at High Trestle Trail *Boone* (CW, JB, AB, WO, RJT), one on 3 Feb at Ames *Story* (CPL, PMi), and one on 7–13 Feb at a private residence *Washington* (Gail Heater).



Northern Mockingbird, Madrid, Boone, 24 January 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Cedar Waxwing: There were 369 reports this season. High counts were 120 on 16 Feb at Big Creek WA *Polk* (AB), 140 on 21 Feb at Ames *Story* (DyO), 185 on 22 Feb at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (LAS), 125 on 22 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), and 110 on 26 Feb at Polk City *Polk* (AB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Widely reported, 692 reports, along the



Surf Scoter, Lake Wapello, Davis, 9 December 2020. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



Long-tailed Duck, Maffitt Reservoir, Polk, 1 December 2020. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Common Merganser, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 26 December 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Sandhill Crane, Cone Marsh, Louisa, 28 February 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Cooper's Hawk, Rural Farrar, Polk, 18 January 2021. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.



Rough-legged Hawk, Ridgeport, Boone, 25 February 2021. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.



Eastern Screech-Owl, U Avenue and Hwy 141, Dallas, 18 March 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Snowy Owl, Webster City, Hamilton, 26 December 2020. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Northern Saw-whet Owl, Grammer Grove, Marshall, 29 January 2021. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.



American Kestrel, Cone Marsh, Louisa, 8 January 2021. Photograph by Dean Hester, North Liberty, IA.



Gyrfalcon, Sac, 9 January 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



White-eyed Vireo, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 27 November 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Horned Lark, Ira Ave & D15, Sac, 1 January 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Winter Wren, Southwoods Park, Polk, 26 December 2020. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.



Eastern Bluebird, Webster City, Boone, 24 January 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Cedar Waxwing, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 24 January 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau



White-winged Crossbill, near Terrill, Dickinson, 21 November 2020. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Pine Siskin, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 2 January 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



*Lapland Longspur, Johnson, 13 March 2021.
Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Harris's Sparrow, Boone, 16 December 2020.
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Song Sparrow, Boone, 16 December 2020.
Photograph by Larry Dau*



*Swamp Sparrow, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 20
December 2020. Photograph by Mark Brown,
North Liberty, IA.*



*Meadowlark sp., Rural Corydon, Decatur, 11
January 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston,
Packwood, IA.*



*Rusty Blackbird, Sparks Cemetery Area,
Boone, 2 January 2021. Photograph by Larry
Dau, Boone, IA.*

Mississippi R and eastern Iowa and now into central Iowa. High counts included 102 on 20 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (BRi, JW, ANo, EN, CS), 89 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (BRi, JW, RBr, CS, ZS), 100 on 9 Jan–13 Feb at Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (WGH, SMF, MaM), and 80 on 12 Feb at a private residence *Johnson* (Cindy Opitz). In addition to the eastern Iowa reports there was one on 30 Jan at a private residence *Harrison* (CD) from extreme western Iowa. There were also 8 reports of Eurasian Tree Sparrow x House Sparrow hybrid birds from the beginning of the period to the end of the period, 7 from *Story* and one from *Polk*.

American Pipit: Two reports: 3 on 13 Dec at Coralville L *Johnson* (MHB) and one on 4 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (TW, DWa).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Three records after an absence of many years: 4 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (*MR, CJ), one on 9–23 Jan at Dubuque *Dubuque* (*Abbey Krava-ph, *TM-ph, *DAS, WV, BCC, CKr, *MHB-ph), and 2 on 18 Jan at Jester P *Polk* (CW-recording), audio confirmed by Matthew A. Young of Cornell University, New York as the first Type 1 Evening Grosbeak found east of western Nebraska, a really great find in Iowa.

Purple Finch: There were a total of 272 reports after 85 last year. High counts were 60 on 10 Jan at DeKalb WA *Decatur* (DTh, PJW) and 28–43 on 12–18 Feb at Salem *Henry* (Carole Kern).

Common Redpoll: There were 41 reports this year after one report last winter. Highest numbers were: 20 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk*

(AB), 20 on 22 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (Evan Grimes), and 6 on 27 Dec at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve *Johnson* (Terri Macey).

Red Crossbill: Fifteen reports this year from nine locations, high counts were: 3–12 on 1 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (KVS, JoMc, WO, SCS), 4 on 14 Dec *Lee* (SJD), 3 on 15 Dec at Ames Cemetery *Story* (TMH), and 5 on 8 Feb at private residence *Polk* (RJT).

White-winged Crossbill: Sixty-eight reports this year, highest numbers: 4–20 on 3 Dec–24 Jan at Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (WV, BCC, DH, SMF, JW, HL, PL, Jordan Hoosman, FSS, JBo, JLF, Althea Sondahl), 3 on 13 Jan at Harlington Cemetery, Waverly *Bremer* (MWe), and 8 on 17 Jan–28 Feb at Johnston *Polk* (SJD).

Pine Siskin: There were 582 reports this season after 66 reports last year and 354 the year before. High counts: 41 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, FLM, JaM), 60 on 25 Jan at private residence *Woodbury* (RWR), 42–43 on 26–28 Jan at private residence *Polk* (PJW), and 45 on 18 Feb at Greene *Butler* (Bruce Burroughs). There was a leucistic individual with a white head seen coming to a feeder 16 Dec–17 Jan in West Des Moines *Polk* (PJW-ph).

LESSER GOLDFINCH: Third state record: one on 10 Jan at West Des Moines *Polk* (RJT, *AB-ph, JG).

American Goldfinch: High counts: 75 on 13 Feb at Des Moines *Polk* (ACu), 80 on 21 Feb at Winterset *Madison* (SBa), and 74 on 24 Feb at private residence *Pottawattamie* (Dominique De Caprona).

Lapland Longspur: There were

169 reports with high counts of 150 on 19 Dec near Slater *Story* (JG), 400 on 24 Dec in northwest *Polk* (AB), and 250 on 31 Dec near Lone Tree *Johnson* (MHB).

Snow Bunting: There were 50 reports this winter after 47 last winter. The largest numbers were 44 on 2 Jan near Zwingle *Dubuque* (TM) and 75 on 16 Jan near Postville *Clayton* and *Fayette* (CFr).

Chipping Sparrow: Eighteen reports representing 5 records this winter: 2 on 21 Dec near Guttenberg *Clayton* (BCC-ph), one on 3 Jan at Grinnell *Poweshiek* (CSe), one ad 13 Jan at Lost Nation *Taylor* (CFr), one juv 30 Jan–12 Feb at Dubuque *Dubuque* (KJAB), and one ad 19 Feb at Ankeny *Polk* (RLC).

Field Sparrow: Four reports this season after 7 last year. All: 2 on 31 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BW), 3 on 10 Jan at Coralville Res *Johnson* (LGR), and one on 20 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

Fox Sparrow: There were 46 reports for this species after 18 last year. Highest counts were: 3 on 11 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and 6 on 25 Jan at Chris Larson P-Bruquier's Bend *Woodbury* (JP, BFH).

American Tree Sparrow: High counts: 440 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (MR, CJ, JaM, SCr), 312 on 17 Jan *Clinton* (CS, Ryan Waltz, MR), 1235 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM), and 378 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (DK, JMa).

Dark-eyed Junco: There were 56 Oregon race individuals reported. High numbers reported were 311 on 20 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (AF, PC), 1904 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM), and 606 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (DK,

JMa).

White-crowned Sparrow: There were 194 reports after 34 last year with high counts of 18 on 18 Dec *Jackson* (KJM, SH) and 11 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Harris's Sparrow: There were 201 reports after 62 last year high counts of 11 on 6 Jan at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Kent Jensen), 12–15 on 16–17 Jan at Big Creek WA *Polk* (CW, AB).

White-throated Sparrow: There were 587 reports this winter after 380 last year. High counts were 27 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (JaM, SCr, MR, CJ) and 31 on 19 Dec *Linn* (KJM, KKa).

Vesper Sparrow: Two reports: one on 1–16 Jan in northern *Ringgold* (JRL) and one on 3–7 Jan at Nora Springs *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, good details).

LeConte's Sparrow: One on 3–9 Jan at Iowa City *Johnson* (*Est-ph, TSt, KSt).

Savannah Sparrow: Ten records this season. High numbers: 2 on 28 Dec at *Humboldt* (Jacob Newton) and 3 on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, *JaM).

Song Sparrow: There were 806 reports after 323 last year, mostly from the eastern and central parts of the state. High counts were 125 on 19 Dec *Marion* (DyO), 39 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM), and 40 on 14 Jan at Chris Larson P-Bruquier's Bend *Woodbury* (BFH).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Two reports: one on 24 Dec at Clive *Polk* (Jane Clark) and one on 3 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (ABu, Bill Thomas).

Swamp Sparrow: There were

91 reports after 71 last year with high counts of 16 on 20 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB) and 12 on 31 Dec at near Burlington *Des Moines* (BW_i).

Spotted Towhee: There were 9 reports of 7 separate records this winter: one on 15 Dec at Waterloo *Black Hawk* (TGS), one on 19 Dec at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), one on 10–27 Jan at Waterloo *Black Hawk* (WV, *Judith Menuey-ph), one on 24 Jan at Chris Larson P-Bruquier's Bend *Woodbury* (BFH), one on 1 Feb at Clayton *Clayton* (TM), 3 on 14 Feb at private residence *Polk* (Scott Miller), and one on 24 Feb at private residence *Clayton* (CKr).

Eastern Towhee: Twenty-three reports for three records: one 15 Dec–24 Feb at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve *Dubuque* (TM, CKr, WV, DAS, Martha Corfman), one 21–27 Dec at Marion *Linn* (Neil Bernstein), and one 27 Jan–3 Feb at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* (Sylvia Fredericks, TMC).

Eastern Meadowlark: Eight reports this winter with vocalizations after 5 last year. Two with call notes were heard on 5 Dec–22 Jan at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (RJT), several gave call notes on 19 Dec at New L *Woodbury* (POR), one was singing on 18 Jan at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RLC), one vocalized on 28 Jan near Huxley *Story* (DyO), and 3 were seen giving call notes on 5 Feb *Story* (CPL).

Western Meadowlark: There were ten reports this winter with only one noting vocalizations: 18 with a few calling on 5 Dec at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (RJT).

Red-winged Blackbird: High

counts were 1200 on 6 Dec near Oxford *Johnson* (MHB), 1500 on 20 Dec at Coralville L *Johnson* (MHB), and 2000 on 6 Jan at Water Works P *Polk* (RJT).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High count: 900 on 6 Dec near Oxford *Johnson* (MHB).

Rusty Blackbird: There were a total of 28 reports of 131 individuals from 19 counties. High counts: 12 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (JT_i), 20 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM, CJ), and 12 on 16 Jan *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

Brewer's Blackbird: Ten reports this season: 3 on 15 Dec near Bays Branch *Guthrie* (TJD) and 8 on 27 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

Common Grackle: There were 86 reports after 67 last year with a high of 80,000 on 6 Dec near Oxford *Johnson* (MHB).

Great-tailed Grackle: No reports this year after 4 last year and 9 the year before.

Common Yellowthroat: Two reports this year of one on 4 Dec at Rock Creek P *Jasper* (CSc) and one on 14 Dec at Montrose Marsh *Lee* (SJD).

Palm Warbler: One on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, *JaM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: There were 10 reports this season after 30 last year with 1–2 on 5 Dec–9 Jan at Ice Cave Hill P *Winneshiek* (BVe), one on 19 Dec at State Forest Nursery *Story* (SSP), 2 on 20 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (SSP), one on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM), and one on 5 Jan *Clayton* (KJM, JaM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: One female on 16–31 Jan at Davenport *Scott* (*WMZ-ph).

Summer Tanager: One on 4–10 Dec at Iowa City *Johnson* (*ESt-ph, Angie Hoth-ph, Heather Sander, TSt, KSt) and one on 30 Dec–2 Jan at

Ames Story (Karl Grotheer-ph).

Scarlet Tanager: Continuing from fall: one on 20 Nov–1 Dec *Cer-*

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Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2020–2021

Chris Caster

Reports were submitted for fifty-two counts this season (Figure 1). Omaha and Taylor County did not conduct their counts and Shenandoah was again absent; however, a newly created Dunbar Slough count was added to the state roster.

The state experienced above average temperatures during December (IDALS 2021). High temps occurred on the 22nd with Union County reporting

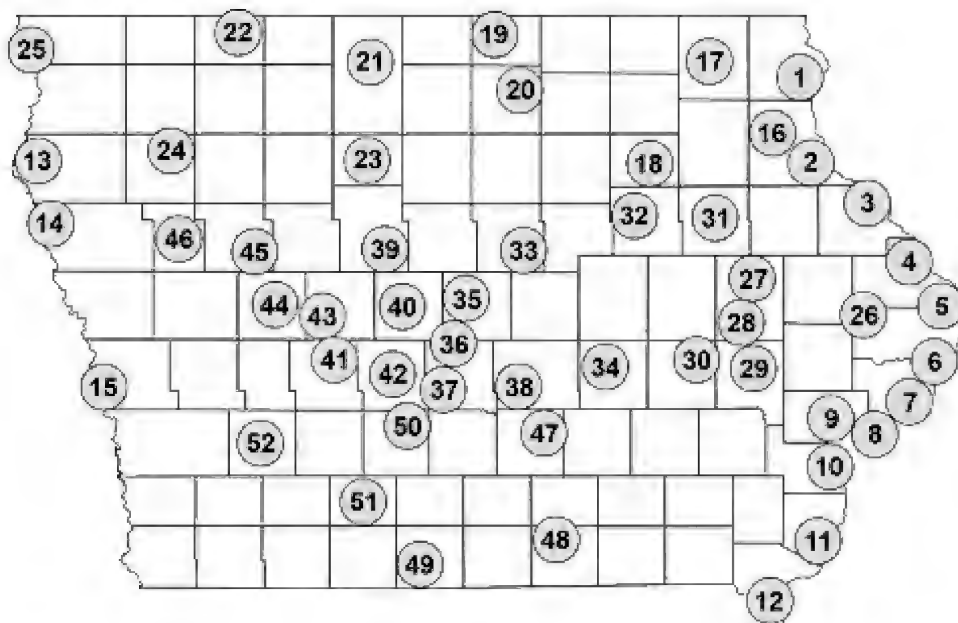


Figure 1. Map of Iowa CBC locations (see Table 1).

55 degrees and Muscatine 48. Single digit lows were reported primarily from January counts. A low of one degree was reported from Buchanan County on Christmas Day. Except for the southeast, snow was present on many counts statewide. The heaviest snows were reported from Carroll County and Neal Smith NWR.

The species count of 144 was above the 10-year average of 140. The total bird count (812,703) was the highest recorded and 24 percent above the 10-year average. Davenport had the high with 97 species. Keokuk recorded 93 and Burlington 90. Other high counts: Saylorville (88), Clinton (85), and Red Rock (83). DeSoto NWR (70) again led the Missouri River counts. Bremer County (65) led the northern counts.

Count participation was not significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic. The average count this season had 13 field observers, 7.6 field

parties, and 60 species. Omaha was the only large count canceled. The average number of field participants only dropped by one person compared to the average of the previous five counts. This can nearly be attributed to the loss of the Omaha count alone. The average number of field parties was increased slightly due to social distancing, up from 6 over the previous five counts. The average species count also increased slightly over the previous five counts from 59 to 60 species. This may have been enhanced by the increased number of field parties, but also falls within the range of 56 to 62 species over the last five counts.

REGULAR SPECIES

Seven regular species were found in record numbers. It was an excellent count for waterfowl. Gallinaceous birds and owls also had high counts. Diurnal raptors, gulls, sparrows, icterids, and finches had more typical counts. It was a poor year for frugivorous species. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (186,991) were again plentiful. Cackling Geese (1,118) were widespread but reduced. Greater White-fronted Geese (9,475) were found on 23 counts and in large numbers with 5100 at W. Mercer County and 2972 at DeSoto NWR. Snow Geese (1,757) were not plentiful. The majority were at DeSoto NWR. Only three other counts managed double digits. Ross's Geese (5) were singles on five counts. Trumpeter Swans (2,662) were in large numbers. Tundra Swans (2,988) were in record numbers and on five counts. Most were at Clinton, but twenty birds at Amana was notable. Three Mute Swans were at Davenport for the second straight year.

Mallards (68,084) were increased over the previous two seasons to more typical numbers. American Black Ducks (10) had possibly their lowest count ever. Gadwalls (538), Northern Shovelers (485), and Green-winged Teal (228) all had good counts. Wood Ducks (19) were at their average. Northern Pintails (51) and American Wigeons (17) were relatively scarce. This was one of the better counts for Canvasbacks (54,882). They were on thirteen counts with over 25,000 at both Clinton and Keokuk. Common Goldeneyes (8,981) were in average numbers. Redheads (268), Ring-necked Ducks (1,022), and Lesser Scaup (4,457) were all present in good numbers. Greater Scaup (298) were primarily at Keokuk and Spirit Lake. Common Mergansers (17,114) were widespread and abundant. Over 13,000 were at Red Rock. Red-breasted Mergansers (43) had their best count in nearly twenty years. Hooded Mergansers (395) were in record numbers. Ruddy Ducks (3,717) were also abundant. Single Surf Scoters were at Burlington and Keokuk. Keokuk also reported a Black Scoter. Long-tailed Ducks (10) were on three counts with five at Union County.

Pied-billed Grebes (7) rebounded closer to their average. Double-crested Cormorants (35) were on five counts. American White Pelicans (567) were at their average. Great Blue Herons (113) were reported in fair numbers. Last season only six Sandhill Cranes were reported. This year a record 311 birds

were found over three counts with 284 at Clinton alone. Belted Kingfishers (152) were numerous. American Coots (106) were not plentiful. Killdeer (32) and Wilson's Snipes (24) had relatively good counts. Ring-billed Gulls (19,743) were in fair numbers. Herring Gulls (2,447) fared relatively better. Iceland Gulls (4) were on two counts and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (6) were on three.

Northern Bobwhites (91) were present on ten counts. Wild Turkeys (2,520) were in good numbers and Ring-necked Pheasants (2,076) had their best count in thirteen. Gray Partridge (34) were on five counts and Westfield had the high. Eurasian Collared-Doves (717) have shown a slight decline over the last three seasons. Rock Pigeons (9,723) and Mourning Doves (3,470) were only in fair numbers.

Bald Eagles (3,681) were average, but on every count. Northern Harriers (126) and Cooper's Hawks (104) were nearly average. Sharp-shinned Hawk (53) counts have been typically about half of the Cooper's total in recent years. Red-shouldered Hawks (29) approached record numbers. Nine were at Cedar Falls-Waterloo and six were at Keokuk. Rough-legged Hawks (198) and Red-tailed Hawks (1,828) were found in average numbers. Golden Eagles (11) had their best count in nine. Four were at Green Island. American Kestrels (645) were in good numbers. Merlins (35) tied their record high from two years ago. Peregrine Falcons (5) were average.

Eastern Screech-Owls (163) were discovered in excellent numbers. Great Horned Owls (323) had their best count in over thirty years. Barred Owls (332) established a new high. Long-eared Owls (49), Short-eared Owls (25), and Northern Saw-whet Owls (22) were all in good numbers.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (217) had an enormous correction following two years of record counts over 700. In sharp contrast, Red-bellied Woodpecker (2,465) numbers are quite steady year to year. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (29) were down somewhat; however Downy Woodpeckers (3,301) were in record numbers and Hairy Woodpeckers (905) had their best count in eight. Northern Flickers (340) dropped to a third of last season's count and Pileated Woodpeckers (181) approached record numbers.

Northern Shrikes (29) were well off their average. Loggerhead Shrikes (2) were at Burlington and Lamoni. Blue Jay (5,217) numbers were typical but American Crows (73,698) were abundant.

Black-capped Chickadees (6,181) rebounded from a ten-year low, approaching average numbers. Tufted Titmice (875) and White-breasted Nuthatches (3,420) were in above average numbers. There was evidence of a modest irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches (203) this season. Unfortunately, Brown Creepers (217) were at a sixteen-year low. Carolina Wrens (282) approached record numbers. They were found as far north as Decorah and Mason City. It was also a good season for Winter Wrens (48). Golden-crowned Kinglet (76) numbers were down somewhat. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (6) were found in more typical numbers following last season's record seventeen birds.

Eastern Bluebirds (605) and American Robins (979) were both at an eleven-

year low. Hermit Thrushes (37) were also reduced in number. Brown Thrashers (2) were at Yellow River Forest and DeSoto NWR. A count week thrasher was at Lamoni. Northern Mockingbirds (6) matched last year's total. Lamoni had three. Cedar Waxwings (2,705) were only in fair numbers. Yellow-rumped Warblers (18) were also at an eleven-year low. European Starlings (72,989) continue to do very well, especially in Des Moines where over 18,000 were counted.

Only two Eastern Towhees were reported. Nine Spotted Towhees equaled last season's excellent total. American Tree Sparrows (13,998) rebounded to average numbers. Field Sparrows (5) and Savannah Sparrows (9) were at their averages. Fox Sparrows (32) were a bit below their average. Song Sparrows (1,162) approached record numbers. Swamp Sparrows (204) were found in decent numbers. Single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at DeSoto NWR and Des Moines. White-throated Sparrows (920) were in above-average numbers. White-crowned Sparrows (170) returned to average numbers after last season's ten-year low. Harris's Sparrows (177) also increased from last season. Dark-eyed Juncos (18,928) rose above their previous two counts but were still below their average.

Horned Larks (3,905) increased to typical numbers, but Lapland Longspurs (847) were reduced and Snow Buntings (28) approached a 20-year low. Meadowlarks (530) were in fair numbers. Though not a record, Red-winged Blackbirds (121,650) were in apocalyptic numbers. Des Moines reported 85,000 and Davenport over 30,000. Brown-headed Cowbirds (1,684), Rusty Blackbirds (182), and Common Grackles (9,269) were in more reasonable numbers. Brewer's Blackbirds (10) were on four counts.

House Sparrows (28,681) counted well. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (3,599) were in record numbers. They were reported north to NW Clayton County and westward to Ames, Des Moines, and Red Rock. Ames also reported a House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow. House Finches (3,309) were also in good numbers. Purple Finches (373) were less so. Common Redpolls (17) were scattered across six counts. Red Crossbills (9) were on five counts. White-winged Crossbills (4) were on two. Pine Siskins (625) were average in number and widespread. American Goldfinch (3,403) numbers rebounded somewhat but were still well below the ten-year average. Northern Cardinal (6,960) numbers were as expected.

NOTABLE MISSES

Despite the high species count, there were some notable misses this season: White-winged Scoter (reported from 8 of last 10 counts), Glaucous Gull, Common Loon, Yellow-headed Blackbird (7 of last 10), Gray Catbird (6 of last 10), Black-billed Magpie, LeConte's Sparrow (5 of last 10). Ruffed Grouse was also missed.

UNCOMMON SPECIES

A California Gull was documented from Saylorville and accepted by the IOU Records Committee. The last time that bird was on the count was in 1993-1994. Two Blue-winged Teal were at Davenport. A Turkey Vulture was at Keokuk. Blue-winged Teal and Turkey Vulture had both been reported on seven of the previous

ten counts. A Virginia Rail was at Burlington. A Northern Goshawk was at Westfield. Snowy Owls were at Clinton, Union Slough NWR, and Lamoni. A Prairie Falcon was at DeSoto NWR. A Sedge Wren was at Green Island. Two years ago, one was on the Shenandoah count. Marsh Wrens were at Clinton and Keokuk. An astounding three Townsend's Solitaires were at Cherokee. Another was at Westfield. Fortunately, the irruption of Evening Grosbeaks into Iowa last fall carried over into the count period as four birds were at Clinton. Chipping Sparrows were reported from Green Island and Ida County. An immature Baltimore Oriole was coming to an Illinois feeder on the Davenport count. A Common Yellowthroat was at Keokuk. This is the third straight year for that bird on the count. A Palm Warbler was found at NW Clayton County. And a Dickcissel was at Bremer County. A Dickcissel had been reported from this same count two years before, and Burlington the year before that. Lastly an Osprey documented on the Sioux City count was not accepted by the IOU Records Committee.

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Cooper's Hawk, Prairie City, Jasper, 8 February 2021. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

Table 1. Site Data for 2020–2021 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	21-Dec	50	2,494	11	6	32	370
2. SE Clayton County	5-Jan	63	3,818	7	4	30.75	313
3. Dubuque	2-Jan	62	5,758	8	7	52.5	184.5
4. Green Island	18-Dec	77	7,886	18	7	70	340.1
5. Clinton	15-Dec	85	46,970	10	6	50	413
6. Princeton	17-Dec	69	7,945	12	6	54.75	431*
7. Davenport	20-Dec	97	75,986	25	14	101.25	566
8. Andalusia	24-Dec	74	6,085	11	4	33.5	235
9. Muscatine	22-Dec	74	8,687	15	5	46.25	361
10. W Mercer County	21-Dec	75	9,562	11	6	48.25	317
11. Burlington	19-Dec	90	9,552	16	8	56	280
12. Keokuk	14-Dec	93	100,244	9	6	55	504
MISSOURI RIVER							
13. Westfield	16-Dec	57	5,806	22	11	48.5	392.5
14. Sioux City	19-Dec	55	22,272	21	13	70.5	497
15. DeSoto NWR	19-Dec	70	24,174	24	16	109.5	310.25
NORTHERN THIRD							
16. NW Clayton County	4-Jan	64	7,456	7	4	31.25	354
17. Decorah	19-Dec	46	4,252	19	10	53.6	399
18. Bremer County	19-Dec	65	10,694	10	7	47	459
19. Worth County	1-Jan	37	9,714	5	4	25.5	352
20. Mason City	19-Dec	50	14,916	12	8	57	475
21. Union Slough NWR	4-Jan	40	1,715	14	10	50.25	449
22. Spirit Lake	14-Dec	62	14,376	11	5	45	389
23. Humboldt County	28-Dec	44	4,657	4	4	25.5	361
24. Cherokee	28-Dec	37	1,718	7	2	7	188
25. Canton	2-Jan	40	1,646	11	5	31.75	276
MIDDLE THIRD							
26. Lost Nation	16-Dec	61	6,655	12	5	42.75	428
27. North Linn	26-Dec	57	4,852	7	4	43	456
28. Cedar Rapids	19-Dec	67	15,738	14	11	62	341.3
29. Iowa City	20-Dec	72	28,866	46	32	153.2	616
30. Amana	26-Dec	47	4,223	8	3	21	80
31. Buchanan County	25-Dec	54	3,091	3	2	18	208
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	20-Dec	70	26,153	22	16	79	710
33. Eldora-Union	17-Dec	41	1,907	10	4	25	181
34. Grinnell	20-Dec	29	1,690	3	2	12	140
35. Ames	19-Dec	70	31,607	32	21	108.5	402
36. Saylorville Reservoir	20-Dec	88	22,954	19	10	77	514
37. Des Moines	26-Dec	79	124,061	21	15	83	497
38. Neal Smith NWR	2-Jan	55	3,803	12	8	36	344
39. SE Webster County	19-Dec	45	10,086	12	na	56	250
40. Boone County	26-Dec	56	9,154	19	11	76	582
41. Jamaica	15-Dec	62	9,208	9	6	31.25	280
42. Dallas County	19-Dec	57	2,666	22	10	44	286
43. Dunbar Slough	1-Jan	46	4,535	8	6	52	427
44. Carroll County	5-Jan	44	3,521	5	5	18.14	183.7
45. Sac County	3-Jan	37	2,749	3	3	13.5	77
46. Ida County	2-Jan	47	2,890	14	na	8	454
SOUTHERN THIRD							
47. Red Rock Reservoir	29-Dec	83	26,396	14	10	47.75	371
48. Rathbun Reservoir	19-Dec	65	13,988	11	6	49.75	374
49. Lamoni	27-Dec	64	21,782	6	3	25	266
50. NE Madison County	17-Dec	45	5,173	12	5	33.75	208.3
51. Union County	22-Dec	62	15,023	1	1	10	111
52. Cass County	3-Jan	33	1,549	8	3	11	97
TOTALS			812,703				

*includes 14 miles by boat

Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
11	4	0	0	0	27	39	4	W 6-26
2	2.25	4	0	0	9	33	5	SW 0-5
13	2	na	4	na	20	22	7	unk 5-10
20.25	4	23	1	0.5	28	39	6	SE 12-23
5	6.75	73	1	2	16	28	1	NE 5-10
14.5	7.25	87	0	0	19	34	0	W 0-5
28.5	15.25	112.25	13	11.5	26	39	0	SW 5-10
9.75	4.75	37	2	1.25	9	16	0	W 15-30
13.5	4.75	27	7	14	21	48	0	SE 0-10
15.25	10.75	77	0	0	36	50	0	NW 5-35
27	2	2	2	8	33	39	0	N 5-12
13.25	2.5	na	0	0	20	28	0	NW 3-14
14	1	0.1	1	6	33	35	0	SE 5-12
22.15	2	5	3	1.5	9	35	0	SE 0-10
32.65	1.25	15	1	0	25	42	1	N 3-11
1	2	11	0	0	23	32	5	SW 5-10
33.8	4.6	51.5	3	9.7	32	35	4	unk. 0-10
16	2	7	3	2	28	34	1	SW 5-10
8	0	0	0	0	13	24	2	SE 4-6
22	0	0	4	6	16	25	1	NW 5-10
11.4	3.5	6	0	0	28	34	2	NNW 6-15
7	0	0	7	13	8	19	0	NW 6-8
10	3	6	1	2.5	8	27	0.75	NW 0-18
0	0	0	0	0	11	31	3	WNW 7-14
14.75	0.5	0.5	1	1	17	31	3	var. 0-6
6.5	0	0	0	0	20	28	2	NE 5-7
9	4	44	0	0	15	31	0	W 4
30.13	2	10	2	11	25	33	2	W 2
113.6	5.3	35	20	55	21	34	1	W 5-9
12	4	20	0	0	18	36	0	calm
3.5	2.25	8	0	0	1	25	0	W 5-15
38	1	5	6	9	18	36	1	SW 5-10
6.5	0	0	0	0	14	25	3	calm
2	4	40	1	6	27	39	1	NW 0-5
39.5	3.5	14	6	14	21	28	2	WNW 5-13
33	8	47	0	0	18	39	0	W 0-7
50.5	3.5	31	8	22	18	35	0	N 5
11.75	2.5	0	na	5.5	8	25	8	var. 0-7
1	1	5	1	5	18	26	1	var. 5-10
41.1	2	na	6	8	13	36	0.2	unk. 10-15
5.5	2	20	1	4	17	23	3	E 4-8
20.5	0	0	6	12	27	28	0	NW 10-20
9.5	6.5	92	1	0.5	10	25	2	NW 5-10
8.81	2	30.5	2	2	19	43	10	SSE 3-14
8	0	0	5	29	3	35	3	S 0-10
13.25	2	20	1	3	2	28	4	var. 5-8
22	4	26.8	0	0	29	32	1	NNW 5-25
2	2.5	28	3	9	31	35	0	NW 5-10
11	1	5	0	0	27	36	0	W 4-11
7.5	0	0	2	4	15	29	0	SE 5-10
4	0.5	3	0	0	25	55	3	S 5-15
4.5	0	0	0	0	8	34	3	S 1-10

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Location	Sn	Ro	Gr	W-f	Cack	Ca	Tr	Tu	Wo	No		Am	Ma	Am	No	Gr	
	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Sw	Sw	Du	Sh	Ga	Wi		Bl	Pi	Wi	Ca
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow River Forest						120	11				1		206				
2. SE Clayton County						1	20										
3. Dubuque						1514	43						426				4
4. Green Island				38	2219	43	5				1		347				
5. Clinton				50	1720	684	2957	5	7	67	4	2283			1	3	26265
6. Princeton				5	1490	15					2		144				
7. Davenport	34		515	68	8260	1		2			22		1111	1	7	4	
8. Andalusia	29				388	5		1			1		141		1		
9. Muscatine			25	3	1388			7					136				58
10. W Mercer County	1		5100	2	827	19					6		120				60
11. Burlington	65		31	106	3425	25			2	3	72		374			5	7
12. Keokuk	1		262	11	7938	96				95	101		2508	1	4	3	28430
Subtotals	130	0	5933	283	29290	962	2962	17	105	273	4	7796	2		13	15	54824
MISSOURI RIVER																	
13. Westfield	1		1	52	3085	5							827		3	6	
14. Sioux City				110	5219					1		2	14408		8	2	
15. De Soto NWR	1612	1	2972	24	4908	72							9588		5		
Subtotals	1613	1	2973	186	13212	77	0	0	1	0	2	24823	0		16	8	0
NORTHERN THIRD																	
16. NW Clayton County			6		205												
17. Decorah				21	1541								21				
18. Bremer County	2			4	5663	2				23			248				
19. Worth County			2		6905	126							2				
20. Mason City				19	5772	189	2						446				
21. Union Slough NWR					21								3				
22. Spirit Lake				14	10601	2				4	3		861				12
23. Humboldt County				1	2779								170		1		
24. Cherokee																	
25. Canton																	
Subtotals	2	0	8	59	33487	319	2	0	27	3	0	1751	0		1	0	12
MIDDLE THIRD																	
26. Lost Nation			6		140	346							7				
27. North Linn			4		1161	7											
28. Cedar Rapids		1	2	66	8533								508	1		4	
29. Iowa City				19	5293	13				14	15	6	11297		3		4
30. Amana			20		2500	250	20				3		25				
31. Buchanan County				2	739								57				
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2		1	13	9543	63				11	3		1932	2		1	
33. Eldora-Union				2	550								10				
34. Grinnell					950	59					1		325			2	
35. Ames		1	1	148	9035	4					3		502			5	
36. Saylorville Reservoir	2		1	24	4298	26		1	279	12			8046	1	15	28	
37. Des Moines			38	26	14164	253	4				19	4	1497	1		1	3
38. Neal Smith NWR					101												
39. SE Webster County	1			20	4500	140					3	1	1289				
40. Boone County					1343	2							9				
41. Jamaica			46	5	3766	17					3		2100			6	1
42. Dallas County	6				411	13											
43. Dunbar Slough																	
44. Carroll County			cw	2	2214	4							21				
45. Sac County					2001	2											
46. Ida County		1	1		480								90			1	
Subtotals	11	3	120	327	71722	1199	24	1	304	62	11	27715	5		18	48	8
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
47. Red Rock Reservoir	1	1		4	1483	16			1	20			287			87	27
48. Rathbun Reservoir			104	5	5676	15					184		4632	2	3	70	5
49. Lamoni			56	24	17724					1			90				
50. NE Madison County					1237								13				
51. Union County			281	230	12424					27	16		977	1			6
52. Cass County					736	74											
Subtotals	1	1	441	263	39280	105	0	1	48	200	0	5999	3		3	157	38
TOTALS	1757	5	9475	1118	186991	2662	2988	19	485	538	17	68084	10		51	228	54882

	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	No Bo	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	P-b Gr	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Am Co
					2	8	19					1	82		197	8	9	14
												4	92		242	9	127	
	1		6		46	2							141		356		86	
220			2		33		420	25	4				23		154		141	10
			2330	350	4881	3	130	2	4			15	22		163		142	
	2		5	6	53		3		5			1	2		314	1	194	
3	31		268	89	331	5	31	3	10	1		1	5	2	551		190	
	8		14		10	1	32			6		13	3		34		37	
	1		8	6	64	15	27		1			7	3		68		256	
				22						18			25		49	1	36	
2	2		18	7	3	3	3		21	9		5	9	1	249	5	297	11
15	760	170	1403	695	2313	29	33	1	3213			1	27	2	267	4	184	32
240	805	170	4054	1175	7736	66	698	31	3258	34	0	48	434	5	2644	28	1699	67
	2		13		20	6	18				10	37	117		79	75	2	
1			2		16		1		3			4	162		274	7	5	
					97	5	37		3	8		4	194		126	11	10	3
1	2	0	15	0	133	11	56	0	6	8	10	45	473	0	479	93	17	3
												54	62		194	24	126	
	131		64									5	137		205			
2											8	47	66		420	40	22	3
2	1											25	46		391		23	
					3							16	305		201	2	71	2
												144	8		127		7	
7	17	120	215	42	226	15	358	4	4			6	25	1	92	7	12	
												148	9		22	4	1	
												74	22		211		11	
											2	120	74		174	18	18	
11	149	120	279	42	229	15	358	4	4	0	10	639	754	1	2037	95	291	5
	29											87	51		29	22	70	
												14	6		176	30	28	
1	4		2		27		9	5				3	40		167	13	61	
			19	1								54	40		269	14	84	
									4			5	40		60	8	65	
												16	14		90	36	8	
	3	2	6		45	7			1			56	49		792	5	199	
			1		1							27	29		42	9	48	
1	1		6				22					23					18	
			cw	cw	18	cw	1		cw			178	11	1	286	66	126	
		1	28	3	62	3	1409	1	338		6	57	91		237	27	106	
	1		2	1	195	84	44		29				19		901	5	112	
										8	184	8			88	20	167	
												6	30		340	4		
4												53	59		360	50	43	
			1		2	1	11		28			92	12		125	23	116	
										11		21	29		56	19	27	
												94	40		32	59	22	
			1		3				1			8			54	22	2	
												109			31	2	2	
												205	14		70	8	2	
6	38	3	68	5	353	104	1507	1	401	11	14	1292	582	1	4205	442	1306	0
	9		2	15	419	47	13696	7	19	6		18	24		99	29	46	
			10	66	28	123	795					4	16		30		56	
	1				7		2		5	13		1	2		79	16	10	
												22	224		138	12	27	
1	10	3	16		76	29	2		24	7		5	2		12	2		1
										12		2	9				18	30
10	28	5	41	66	530	199	14495	7	48	38	0	52	277	0	358	59	157	31
268	1022	298	4457	1288	8981	395	17114	43	3717	91	34	2076	2520	7	9723	717	3470	106

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Location	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	D-c Co	Am Wh Pe	Gr Bl He	Go Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Ba Ea	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha
MISSISSIPPI RIVER															
1. Yellow River Forest							1	3	1	1	1		232		28
2. SE Clayton County	2									2	2		51		48
3. Dubuque							2			1	4	2	16	2	23
4. Green Island			9	3		1	3	4	16	2	1		179		55
5. Clinton			111	8	1	4	3	1	17	1	2		60		45
6. Princeton			28	3			8		1	1	2		83		54
7. Davenport	2		6113	437	7	55	28			2	5		92	3	59
8. Andalusia			110	23					2	1	4		169	1	36
9. Muscatine	2		194	6		1	6		3	2	5		69	1	73
10. W Mercer County	1		96	30		120	1		1		4		108	1	25
11. Burlington		2	360	6	2	147	14		6	5	2		45		22
12. Keokuk	14	14	6205	9	13		27	2	3	1			240	6	63
Subtotals	21	16	13226	525	23	328	93	10	50	19	32	2	1344	14	531
MISSOURI RIVER															
13. Westfield							2		3	2	4		34		38
14. Sioux City													7		32
15. De Soto NWR			5				2		5	1	3		78		79
Subtotals	0	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	8	3	7	0	119	0	149
NORTHERN THIRD															
16. NW Clayton County									1	2	1		110		21
17. Decorah										1	2		56		9
18. Bremer County									1	1	3		62	4	22
19. Worth County													10		19
20. Mason City									2		1		39		11
21. Union Slough NWR										1		1	43		12
22. Spirit Lake			318	12		1			1		2		9		13
23. Humboldt County							1				2		10		8
24. Cherokee										2	1		35		27
25. Canton										1			18		25
Subtotals	0	0	318	12	0	1	1	0	5	8	12	1	392	4	167
MIDDLE THIRD															
26. Lost Nation		1					1		14	1			102		56
27. North Linn							1		1	3	3		73		44
28. Cedar Rapids		1	6				1				3		45		42
29. Iowa City			439			4			2	1	2	1	176		86
30. Amana			8						3			2	35		70
31. Buchanan County		1								1	3		24		24
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			1						1	1	2		90	9	48
33. Eldora-Union													32		6
34. Grinnell											1		6		18
35. Ames			1			1			3	1	11		60		61
36. Saylorville Reservoir			2514	419		4	1			1	4		117		65
37. Des Moines	2	2	33	29		2	2			2	2		324		66
38. Neal Smith NWR									1		6		24		35
39. SE Webster County													10		19
40. Boone County								1	1	4	4		124		51
41. Jamaica	6	3		1					1	2	1		31		26
42. Dallas County			1						3				55		25
43. Dunbar Slough									5	1	1		16		25
44. Carroll County											1		12		12
45. Sac County									1		1		33		5
46. Ida County										1	1		17		8
Subtotals	8	8	3003	449	0	11	6	1	36	19	46	3	1406	9	792
SOUTHERN THIRD															
47. Red Rock Reservoir			3111	1458		214	6		4	1	1		185		43
48. Rathbun Reservoir	3		80	3	12	13	3				2		92		31
49. Lamoni									16	2	1		35	1	63
50. NE Madison County									3	1	1		54		36
51. Union County									4		1		33	1	8
52. Cass County											1		21		8
Subtotals	3	0	3191	1461	12	227	9	0	27	4	7	0	420	2	189
TOTALS	32	24	19743	2447	35	567	113	11	126	53	104	6	3681	29	1828

Ro Le Ha	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	No Sh
6	1	1	3						26		20	17	2	9	10			1
13	3	6	9		1		8	1	58		43	12	2	4	14	1		3
2	1	2	2				3		61		85	19	10	1	4	2		
9	14	7	11	15		3	5	15	95		104	41	30	12	22	2		2
9	16	15	7		2		4	3	74	5	96	28	11	3	19			
1	6	8	6				6	7	60	2	76	16	10	12	41			
1	3	16	29			1	7	9	108	3	193	34	21	10	20		2	
6	1	6	10			5	6	1	40	5	77	20	9	4	6			
5	6	11	30	1	1		5	8	60		66	26	11	9	31	1	1	
4	7	8	5	1	1	3	2	3	42		39	8	7	4	36			
3	2	16	14			1	6	33	81	4	49	41	13	2	41	1	1	
1	6	3					15	19	105	2	75	20	19	7	30			
60	66	99	126	17	5	13	70	99	810	21	923	282	145	77	274	7	4	6
18	3	2	5				2		27		42	7	9		5			1
3	1	2	2						56		55	11	3		2	1		
3		1	4				2	1	71		90	16	15	4	12	3		cw
24	4	5	11	0	0	0	4	1	154	0	187	34	27	4	19	4	0	1
4	7	7	9		2		5	3	48		50	20	2	5	8			2
3	1	5	10				5		36		73	23	3	9	9			2
3	1	4	5				2	7	30		50	16	3	2	18			2
		3	1						8		17	6		1				1
	cw	6	4				2		21		66	24	2	3	3			1
1		6	4					1	4		13	5	2	1		1		
	3	4				1	1		9		29	12	1		1	1		
2		2	2				1		19		27	7	1		1			
3		1							10		13	3	1		1	1		
4	1	3	2						9		16	6	1		3	1		1
20	13	41	37	0	2	1	16	11	194	0	354	122	16	21	44	4	0	9
10	7	12	6		1	1	4	10	61		66	10	4	6	31			1
13	3	16	10	2		1	5	1	30	1	45	10	1	3	16			
2		10	8				9	2	73		171	32	5	5	22			1
2		7	8			1	5	4	119		186	31	11	10	33	1		2
3	2	2	1		1		1	7	24		20	4	1	1	11			
2	3	4	3	1		1			21	1	24	14		2	5			1
5	2	5	6			1	6	2	74		129	36	4	7	14	2		3
1			3			1	2	2	25		22	7		2	3			
		5							2		3	2						
3	3	8	13				2		126		221	56	2	1	13	3		
2	11	34	32	11	2	1			85	1	83	32	10	4	11	2	1	1
1		12	12		1		11	1	110	1	160	27	12	2	8	4		1
5	1	3	1		12		1	1	38	1	53	7	9		7	1		1
2			2				1	2	13		17	5	1		2			
6	23	14	15				2		114		195	68	5	10	8			
	3	4	5				1	1	23		30	9	3	1	9			
1		4	3	5			3	1	51	1	74	13	4	5	9			
2	5	4	4					1	31		31	22	2	1	1	4		
3	5	8	4	4			3		10		23	19			1	1		
1		1	1						11		27	8	2					
3	3	5		4			3		2		10	4	2		1			1
67	71	158	137	27	17	7	59	35	1043	6	1590	416	78	60	205	18	1	12
2	2	7	7				2	21	79	1	120	25	21	8	24	1		
2	1	1					1	2	83		28	3	11	5	20			
20	5	8	9		1			46	53		41	8	16	3	33			
1								1	47	1	47	12	22	3	13			1
1	1	4	2	5		1			1		4	2	3		8	1		
1		3						1	1		7	1	1		5			
27	9	20	21	5	1	1	3	71	264	2	247	51	74	19	103	2	0	1
198	163	323	332	49	25	22	152	217	2465	29	3301	905	340	181	645	35	5	29

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Location	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Wi Wr	Ca Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ru Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest		29	248		91	11	1	40	5		1					
2. SE Clayton County		88	180	250	112	17	1	46	3	3	4	1		2	1	2
3. Dubuque		126	106	136	197	8	5	54	4	4	13	4		14		21
4. Green Island	1	150	508	34	178	36	2	90	15	9	9	2	1	97		27
5. Clinton		250	216	318	178	40	12	120	11		21	6	1	10	6	
6. Princeton		96	50	45	125	28	6	70	9	1	7	3		3	2	2
7. Davenport		155	100	2	508	83	9	266	22	8	56	2		22	4	127
8. Andalusia		59	65	30	97	13	3	52	13		11	3		14	4	58
9. Muscatine		143	203	14	176	38	6	82	9	1	9	3		18		23
10. W Mercer County		57	45	41	67	14	2	24	6	2	9	3		7		37
11. Burlington		179	137		123	67	3	88	3	1	10	2		20	2	119
12. Keokuk		263	350	3	144	96	3	69	10		44	17	1	61	1	29
Subtotals	1	1595	36861	916	1996	451	53	1001	110	29	194	46	3	268	20	445
MISSOURI RIVER																
13. Westfield		34	154		26			29			1			13		57
14. Sioux City		32	78	5	168		16	63	5	1	1				3	39
15. DeSoto NWR		108	91	10	241	cw	6	117	1	1	3	2		40		10
Subtotals	0	174	323	15	435	0	22	209	6	2	5	2	0	53	3	106
NORTHERN THIRD																
16. NW Clayton County		183	301	355	86	8	2	123	1	1	2	1		12		3
17. Decorah		95	309		231	22	4	90	6		4	1				4
18. Bremer County		161	607	14	102		8	46	2	1		2				2
19. Worth County		65	219	14	24			12								
20. Mason City		75	596		117		2	55	3		1					6
21. Union Slough NWR	2	17	143	29	33		1	7								
22. Spirit Lake		22	78	120	65		6	35	6							
23. Humboldt County		21	150	9	61		2	33	2							1
24. Cherokee		50	139	3	19		1	1	1							
25. Canton		24	76	66	17		2	14	4			2				2
Subtotals	2	713	7990	610	755	30	28	416	25	2	7	6	0	12	0	18
MIDDLE THIRD																
26. Lost Nation		185	187	208	36	55		35	4	3		1			4	5
27. North Linn		114	105	17	123	4	1	65	1		1	2		1	2	2
28. Cedar Rapids	1	39	1061	6	243	57	8	116	1	4	5	1		5		4
29. Iowa City	1	216	451	15	412	101	9	197	10	1	8			9		8
30. Amana		35	45		25		5	37								
31. Buchanan County		81	113	4	51	2	3	25	3	1		1			1	1
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		145	9880	35	273		7	109	8	1						1
33. Eldora-Union		50	60	41	26			27			2				1	
34. Grinnell		12	24		3			6								
35. Ames		172	13400	1	328	2	11	210	13		15	1		14	1	126
36. Saylorville Reservoir		138	141	10	173	9	17	105	6		1	1		50	1	87
37. Des Moines		138	467		247	22	5	172	7	2	16			46		71
38. Neal Smith NWR		136	179	408	33	3	1	41	1		2			9		15
39. SE Webster County		10	27	6	36		2	27								6
40. Boone County		96	189	1	276	55	5	149	1	1	8			13		1
41. Jamaica		50	100	132	46			29	2		3					
42. Dallas County	1	141	166	15	122	23	2	89	3		2			18		16
43. Dunbar Slough		42	145	1047	37		1	35	1		2					
44. Carroll County		20	41		8		1	29	1							
45. Sac County		15	10	13	12			31								
46. Ida County		104	206	231	7		6	11		2						
Subtotals	3	1939	26997	2190	2517	333	84	1545	62	15	65	7	0	165	10	343
SOUTHERN THIRD																
47. Red Rock Reservoir		181	182	9	183	20	8	121	4		7	3	2	21	3	20
48. Rathbun Reservoir		180	213	6	37	11	4	23						22		19
49. Lamoni		271	475		64	29	2	47	10		2	12		46	1	27
50. NE Madison County		149	220	20	181		1	48			1			18		
51. Union County		8	430		11		1	5			1		1			1
52. Cass County		7	7	139	2	1		5								
Subtotals	0	796	1527	174	478	61	16	249	14	0	11	15	3	107	4	67
TOTALS	6	5217	73698	3905	6181	875	203	3420	217	48	282	76	6	605	37	979

No Mo	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp	Ho Fi	Pu Fi	Co Re	Re Cr	Pi Si	Am Go	La Lo	Sn Bu	Fo Sp	Am Tr Sp	Da Ey Ju	Wh Cr Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Th Sp
		302		413		25				39					29	147		
		345		392		38	5		1	2	54	19	8		378	648		5
		691	106	227	1	60	4			15	85	7	6	2	88	538	3	8
1		549	37	319	18	105	16			2	52	1		1	290	845	18	15
		327	7	379	58	20	4			1	51	11	3		797	615	2	42
		2462		924	228	47	10				37	53	1		463	407	1	10
	11988	21	1703	609	209	14		6	2	33	137	9		5	277	752	6	56
	659	20	939	1127	193	25		1		57	108	40	2	1	322	570	5	49
	2943	28	731	248	67	3				14	89				371	345	1	19
	948	2	377	299	19	17				2	52	2		1	181	157	14	25
1		1133	69	465	292	87	10			29	134			1	192	399	5	33
	6287	460	660	331	24	31			4	9	169	34			59	414	2	111
	2	28634	750	7529	3211	894	139	7	7	164	1007	176	20	11	3447	5837	57	373
		467	141	85		22					38				85	68		
		128	91	428		52	9			55	31				158	408	3	8
		435	110	438		51	10			30	445		cw		668	682	12	39
0	1030	342	951	0	125	19	0	0	85	514	0	0	0	0	911	1158	12	42
		321		1427	1	47	22	1	1	41	55	36	7		1235	1904	11	4
		234	111	286		55	13			11	74			1	127	295		3
		537	1	1456	5	22	1			20	50	42		2	192	252		2
		236		704		40	2				20	85			301	258		
		392		393		123				21	73				40	191	3	
		96		430							22	3			246	97		8
		58	30	447		50	2				15	12		1	184	69		
		506	2	291		25					5	1			186	72	3	
		293	120	403		6			4		32	5		12	73	59		
		139	27	351		12					27	4			46	303		
0	2812	291	6188	6	380	40	1	1	97	373	188	7	16	2630	3500	11	6	17
		820	2	1625	55	5	1				15	2			1218	676		11
		1022	2	896	35	106	10			1	18	104	1		128	182		
		1487	82	1294	34	156	11		1	6	58	7		1	168	294		46
		2774	73	674	106	153	3			34	144				253	426	15	40
		100	26	250	65	20					3				180	110		3
		416	16	604	18	186	1			4	12				129	203	1	3
		688	39	829	105	1				16	37	12			237	318		4
		193		199	1						3				178	241		
		150		6		16	2				9				2	7		
		2709	96	1153	6	409	8	4		57	155			3	457	809	10	38
		1389	89	344		76	11	4		13	203				326	491	6	18
		18027	43	342	2	98	2			37	179				153	453	2	43
1		210	22	796	33	87					26	4			171	495	2	5
		2804	15	564		13	1				3	12			36	73		
		3458	74	1171		36	22			39	68				334	346	9	1
		347	92	342		42					17	30			234	259	7	
		157	61	330		52	16	1		5	119				69	230	2	5
		678	1	775		4	4				18	230			409	294	3	
		392	13	274		31	10			1	17				136	81	3	
		223		66		12	1			31	2				26	24	3	
		351		108		202	1			4	22	82			297	180	1	44
1	38395	746	12642	355	1809	105	9	1	248	1128	483	1	4	5141	6192	37	102	217
		717	216	594	27	51	7			24	71				510	554	15	33
		389	111	82		7	31			7	35				232	156		26
3		128	178	275			31				243		1	478	632	36	8	234
		677	71	287		40					24				611	699	1	15
		114		23		3	1				8				38	74		2
		93		110												126	1	4
3	2118	576	1371	27	101	70	0	0	31	381	0	0	1	1869	2241	53	27	295
6	72989	2705	28681	3599	3309	373	17	9	625	3403	847	28	32	13998	18928	170	177	920

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Location	Sa Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Sp To	We Me	me sp	Re Wi Bl	Br He Co	Ru Bl	Br Bl	Co Gr	Ye Ru Wa	No Ca
MISSISSIPPI RIVER													
1. Yellow River Forest		2					15						51
2. SE Clayton County	3	41	5			2	62	150			2	1	167
3. Dubuque		44	8				cw				1		304
4. Green Island		31	9				1	121					163
5. Clinton		46	8				11				2		254
6. Princeton		12	15				9	3				1	142
7. Davenport		109	62				30047	768	41	4	8624	1	314
8. Andalusia		25	10				12	5			1		226
9. Muscatine		25					16	132			1		222
10. W Mercer County		39	13				115	1	20		14	1	104
11. Burlington		26	12				1				3		221
12. Keokuk		30	2				4					1	303
Subtotals	3	430	144	0	0	2	30293	1180	61	4	8648	5	2471
MISSOURI RIVER													
13. Westfield					2		2			2			13
14. Sioux City		6		2			18						63
15. De Soto NWR		104	cw	5		70	1						211
Subtotals	0	110	0	7	2	70	21	0	0	2	0	0	287
NORTHERN THIRD													
16. NW Clayton County	1	39	2			8	2	7			1	1	225
17. Decorah		1										4	94
18. Bremer County		8	1				30	2		1	2		143
19. Worth County		1					112	5	5		8		15
20. Mason City		2					126	2			1		106
21. Union Slough NWR		2				6	73	1			89		4
22. Spirit Lake							32		12		1		12
23. Humboldt County	2	2				2	1						62
24. Cherokee		15				52							11
25. Canton					12		8						13
Subtotals	3	70	3	0	12	68	384	15	19	1	102	5	685
MIDDLE THIRD													
26. Lost Nation	1	9	2			2	42	12	20				222
27. North Linn		11	4				1	10					175
28. Cedar Rapids		16					99	53			264	1	241
29. Iowa City	1	62	19				3630	108			201		416
30. Amana		15					13				5		90
31. Buchanan County		3	1					1					110
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		13	5			2	9	12			1		182
33. Eldora-Union		5				6		3			1	1	44
34. Grinnell													9
35. Ames		21	1			20		57				1	304
36. Saylorville Reservoir		53	11			19	376	1	1			2	220
37. Des Moines		23	4				85000		1		17	2	205
38. Neal Smith NWR		25				65	27	1	cw				216
39. SE Webster County							3		10		3		9
40. Boone County		37	3			3	1		3			1	188
41. Jamaica		3			12	18	788	2	13	3	15		103
42. Dallas County		1		1		8	4		31		3		122
43. Dunbar Slough		3	2			21	346				1		33
44. Carroll County		3					2						20
45. Sac County		6			2	15	1				1		17
46. Ida County		2			42	8							41
Subtotals	2	311	52	1	56	187	90342	260	79	3	513	7	2967
SOUTHERN THIRD													
47. Red Rock Reservoir	1	209	4		2	22	514	202			5		144
48. Rathbun Reservoir		6				12	23		10				108
49. Lamoni		10		1		6	2						136
50. NE Madison County		12				51		27	13		1		90
51. Union County		4	1			37	1					1	20
52. Cass County							70						52
Subtotals	1	241	5	1	2	128	610	229	23	0	6	1	550
TOTALS	9	1162	204	9	72	455	121650	1684	182	10	9269	18	6960

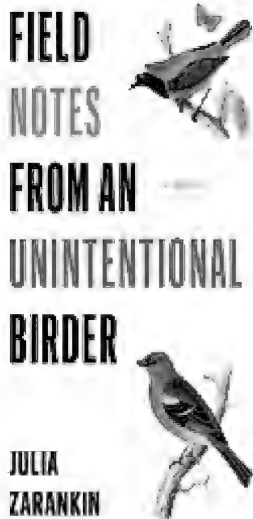
Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2020–2021

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Davenport (3)
Blue-winged Teal	Davenport (2)
Mallard x Am.Black Duck	Rathbun (1), Union County (1)
Surf Scoter	Burlington (1), Keokuk (1)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Westfield (2), Spirit Lake (3) Union County (5)
duck sp.	DeSoto NWR (42)
Virginia Rail	Burlington (1)
Sandhill Crane	Clinton (284), Davenport (10), Keokuk (17)
California Gull	Saylorville (1)
Iceland Gull	Saylorville (1), Red Rock (3)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Davenport (2), Saylorville (3), Red Rock (1)
gull sp.	Green Island (1)
Turkey Vulture	Keokuk (1)
Northern Goshawk	Westfield (1)
buteo sp.	Sioux City (1), Iowa City (1), Boone County (1)
Snowy Owl	Clinton (1), Union Slough NWR (1), Lamoni (1)
woodpecker sp.	Neal Smith NWR (4)
Prairie Falcon	DeSoto NWR (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Burlington (1), Lamoni (1)
Sedge Wren	Green Island (1)
Marsh Wren	Clinton (1), Keokuk(1)
Townsend's Solitaire	Westfield (1), Cherokee (3)
Brown Thrasher	Yellow River Forest (1), De Soto NWR (1), Lamoni (cw)
House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Ames (1)
Evening Grosbeak	Clinton (4)
White-winged Crossbill	SE Clayton County (2), Cedar Rapids (2)
Chipping Sparrow	Green Island (6), Ida County (1)
Field Sparrow	Burlington (3), Keokuk (2)
Lincoln's Sparrow	DeSoto NWR (1) Des Moines (1)
sparrow sp.	DeSoto NWR (103)
Eastern Towhee	Dubuque (1), Davenport (1), Lamoni (cw)
towhee sp.	Cass County (1)
Eastern Meadowlark	W. Mercer County (2), Saylorville (1)
Baltimore Oriole	Davenport (1)
blackbird sp.	Spirit Lake (50)
Common Yellowthroat	Keokuk (1)
Palm Warbler	NW Clayton County (1)
Dickcissel	Bremer County (1)

Book Review: *Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder: A Memoir*

Dylan Osterhaus

Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder: A Memoir, by Julia Zarankin, 2020, 255 pp., 32 black and white illustrations, Douglas and McIntyre, Madeira Park, BC, ISBN 978-1-7716-2248-6, \$18.95 (softcover).



There exists not just one path that may lead a person into birding. The trajectories of life that lead to birding are as diverse and unique as the birds which we pursue. While some of us may have found birding at a young age through exposure from a family member or friend, others may have found their way into birding in the most unintentional of ways. This book is the story of how one birder followed a long and winding path which took her from the former Soviet Union, across the world to the United States, and eventually to Toronto where, at the age of thirty-five, she saw a Red-winged Blackbird that changed her life.

Julia, the daughter of two Russian immigrant concert pianists, spent much of her early life reading, dropping out of ballet classes, and futilely attempting to learn music but successfully avoiding the outdoors and nature. Never would she have dreamed that she would grow from the young girl who faked illness to get out of hiking, to the woman with an all-access pass to look for birds at local sewage lagoons and who would volunteer to spend an entire week, soaked in a severely inadequate tent, only to count least tern chicks. In the midst of an overwhelming career transition, coupled with a divorce, Julia found herself picking through a variety of hobbies before an internet search led her to a Toronto based birding group. While her relationship with birding was not “love at first sight”, Julia found herself drawn to this new passion.

The book’s combination of lighthearted and self-deprecating stories of a self-proclaimed lifelong beginner birder, interspersed with the sometimes sad and serious descriptions of family and personal life, tells an engaging tale of birding, growing, pushing your boundaries, and finding new life in the most unexpected of places. I have no doubt that no matter who reads this book, they will inevitably find themselves relating to the successes, failures, trials, and tribulations that Julia describes both in her personal life and her birding

life. This book provides a great tool to lead us into self-reflection of who we are, how we became a birder, and how this passion has shaped all aspects of our life. Some ways may be obvious, such as the bookshelves stacked full of titles all containing the word bird. In contrast, others may be more discrete and difficult to discern.

Throughout the book, Julia describes how birding allowed her to grow not only in her knowledge of birds but as a person as well. Birding allowed her to realize that the affirmation of others is not always needed for success and that a mistake will not kill you. Birding allowed for her to happily and successfully revisit her childhood attempts at ballet and piano, but now with a better frame of mind. Birding impacted all aspects of her life in many ways that she desperately needed. For her, birding provided a form of healing. I believe that the impact that birding has had on her life is best summed up by her eloquent closing of the chapter titled “Birdsplainer in Training”:

Sometimes I joke that birds saved my life, and then I rephrase: birds gave me a new life, the one I never knew I needed, but exactly the one I wanted.

Julia’s book shows us that no matter what avenues you may have travelled that led you to birds, there is something here for everyone and that sometimes, stepping out of your comfort zone is all it takes to change your life forever. I thoroughly enjoyed the book for its humor and honesty and would encourage everyone to read it. It is a fast read at only 246 pages of text with 31 short and easy to read chapters. It really is a great book and one that may teach you a little something about yourself.

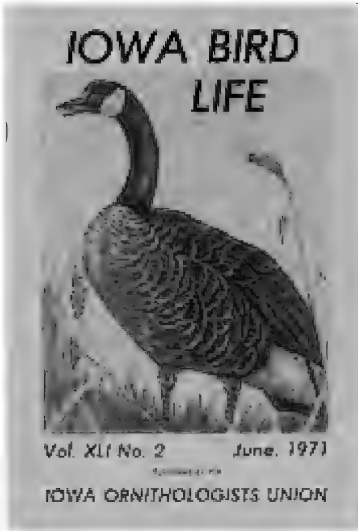
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Barred Owl, Washington, 18 January 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The June 1971 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* starts with a report on the spring 1971 meeting at Cedar Rapids. The meeting had a full agenda starting Friday night with the showing of a film on the countryside of England and Wales as part of the Audubon Screen Tour series. Saturday morning's activities included a bird banding workshop by Jim Rod and John Faaborg, how to use a tape recorder as a birding tool by Jim Rod, a slide show on the birds of Swan Lake, Manitoba by Robert Bergman, and a report on Iowa's first nesting of Chuck-will's-widows by the Ayres. The afternoon program included a film on painting birds in Trinidad featuring noted artist Don Eckleberry, a review of current banding projects in Iowa by Jim Rod, and a report by Joe Brown on a new national project

called the Breeding Bird Survey. The annual business meeting included election of officers with John Osness of Waterloo being elected to follow Beryl Layton as President of the IOU. A lengthy discussion on where to store the IOU's library and what to do with excess back issues and other publications was solved by forming a committee (of course) to come up with a solution. The evening program was a slide show by Dr. David Parmelee of the University of Minnesota on birds and mammals of the High Arctic. Birders found 142 bird species on Sunday's field trips plus three more on Saturday. Registration for the meeting was 115.

Other articles included one by Jim Rod on birding areas of Ames, Story County, and Ledges State Park which described several sites still familiar to birders and an article by Glenn Downing describing some of his experiences with Ruffed Grouse. Some of the better finds in the spring 1971 field reports were a Little Blue Heron and three Cattle Egrets.

Among a number of shorter notes were one by Lillian Serbousek on a Varied Thrush found this winter in Cedar Rapids and discussion of an invasion of Lark Buntings into Plymouth County by Eldon Bryant.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), 1 April for spring issue [2], 1 July for summer issue [3], 1 October for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Evening Grosbeak, Rural Dubuque, *Dubuque*, 23 January 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: White-winged Crossbill, Fairmount Cemetery, *Scott*, 3 December 2020. Photograph by Dean Hester, North Liberty, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

GRAPHICS: Paul Hertz, Mason City, IA.

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CONTENTS

Type 1 Evening Grosbeak in Iowa by Clayton Will and Tom Dougherty.....	53
White Ibis in Johnson County by Ann Johnson.....	55
Meet an Iowa Birder: Mark Brown by Stuart Sparkman.....	56
Subarctic Great Horned Owl by Clayton Will.....	58
Field Reports—Winter 2020–2021 by Francis Moore	59
Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2020–2021 by Chris Caster.....	83
Book Review: <i>Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder: A Memoir</i> by Dylan Osterhaus.....	98
Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life by James J. Dinsmore.....	100

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Summer 2021 • Volume 91 • Number 3



IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Iowa's First Swainson's Warbler Record

Eric Ollie and Shane Patterson

ERIC OLLIE FINDS THE BIRD

On Thursday, 20 May 2021, I was spending the early morning hours birding at East River Valley Park in Ames before having to go to work. The joyous wonders of spring migration had once again caused me to push the bounds of my time in the park right up to the brink so I was very purposefully marching my way out of the park, still keeping my eyes and ears open, when I heard a song that made me stop and think, “what the heck was that?”

With the clock still ticking in the back of my mind, I knew that I needed to stop and see if I could track down the source of this song. I had Louisiana Waterthrush already on my mind since it was one of the few regular warblers that I still needed for the year. It was a target for the day. The song I was hearing was reminiscent of the Louisiana Waterthrush song, but it wasn't a clear match. It was coming from a mid to low level in the trees and underbrush and was quite difficult to pinpoint.

After a few frustrating minutes of searching, alarm bells were going off in my head and I knew that I had to leave. I had no idea what was making this



Figure 1. Spectrogram of Swainson's Warbler song, recorded at East River Valley Park in Ames, Story, 20 May 2021. ©Shane Patterson, Ames, IA.

sound, but I knew that it was something different. In a very fortunate flash of inspiration, I luckily had the wherewithal to pull out my cell phone and record a short video to capture this puzzling song for continued scrutiny.

Once I was no longer in danger of being late for work, I uploaded the video to a couple of Facebook groups that are dedicated to birding in Iowa to see if I could crowd-source an identification. I also sent the video to Shane Patterson, because he is genuinely one of the best birders I know (and know of) and he is extremely adept at identifying bird vocalizations. This was a key and very fortunate decision!

Shane replied that the song is reminiscent of a Louisiana Waterthrush's—but sounds a lot like a Swainson's Warbler.

The next I heard of this was a phone call I received at lunch. It was Shane congratulating me that I was now officially the person who found the first state record of Swainson's Warbler in Iowa, which he had just visually confirmed and had photographed!

I would have never in a million years even thought to consider Swainson's Warbler, being that we are well out of its range and I have never seen (or heard) one before, so I was quite blown away! My heart was pounding and my hands were trembling as I spread the word on the IOU's listserv, on a few Facebook birding groups, and in some texts to some friends. Now I only had four and a half excruciating hours left of work to get through before I could go out to try to actually see it!

It was past 6:30 p.m., raining, and quite dark and gloomy when, luckily, I did indeed get to actually briefly, but satisfactorily, see the first state record Swainson's Warbler that I discovered through a window in the underbrush.

I am fortunate that I had the experience and knowledge to realize that what I was hearing was something different. I am very glad that I had the thought to record the audio. Most of all, though, I am ecstatic that I contacted Shane, who was an absolutely critical part in making this discovery and deserves at least as much credit for it as I do.

SHANE PATTERSON JOINS THE PURSUIT

"Is this it? Did we finally get a Swainson's Warbler in Iowa?" Those words coursed through my mind as a familiar song exploded from the lush woodland understory.

After hearing Eric Ollie's audio message, I shifted plans and listened to hundreds of archived Swainson's Warbler songs. I wanted to be sure. This would be a new state record.

I soon found several examples, from various parts of the species' usual range, that came close to matching the song in the recording. I informed Eric of my thoughts on the bird's identity and made the short drive to East River Valley Park: a place I've birded for years.

Upon arriving, I noticed that a fallout of Neotropical migrant birds had occurred that morning. Dozens of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers were singing at various levels in the mature floodplain forest. Within 10 minutes, I heard the one that brought me there. Resonating just a few meters ahead in the shrubby understory was the characteristic song of a Swainson's Warbler.

This bird's loud, clear warble perfectly fit Sibley's description: "begins like a Louisiana Waterthrush and ends like a Hooded Warbler". I took recordings to save as spectrograms for my records (Figure 1). I enjoy documenting birds via vocalizations, and there was a chance that I might not actually see this one!

Although the bird seemed just out of arm's reach, he remained elusive

through jumbles of vines and foliage. I caught glimpses as he circled and sang from shrubs <2 meters off the ground. At each perch, he stayed just out of view, expertly obscuring himself from my line of sight. But I stayed quiet and moved slowly. I didn't want to scare him away.

Finally, there he was—straight ahead through a gap in the tangles—Iowa's first Swainson's Warbler. With his rotund body and pale, spikey bill, he showed little resemblance to most other warblers. He wore subtle shades of brown, accentuated by a rich, rusty crown and a lemon-yellow suffusion to his breast and belly.



Figure 2. Swainson's Warbler, East River Valley Park in Ames, Story, 20 May 2021. Photograph by Wolfgang Oesterreich, Ames, IA.

I raised my camera, but I was too slow. He flew to another perch. This game continued for a few minutes, until I sat down and found a better angle. From a seated position, I snapped a pic that was clear enough to display details on the view screen. This enabled me to take a cellphone pic of the camera screen, which I used to spread the word via various media. I didn't want to be the only one to observe this sought-after bird.

Soon, several birders, all of whom are better photographers than I, arrived and took excellent photos (Figure 2).

Thankfully, the successful arrivals eventually included Eric Ollie, who first found the bird and had the presence of mind to take a recording and inspire our pursuit. Those of us fortunate to see the bird owe Eric our gratitude.

As a fortunate coincidence, I had studied Swainson's Warbler songs during the days leading up to this event. I was preparing for a summer trip to the Smoky Mountains, where this species is an annual nester in rhododendron thickets. Thus, the song's distinctive cadence and tones were fresh in my mind. I always enjoy finding birds in their expected nesting habitat, but looking back, I was happy to see a Swainson's Warbler a few minutes from my home!

Although uncommon and declining over much of its nesting range, Swainson's Warbler was a long overdue addition to Iowa's avifauna. Nebraska, Wisconsin, and northern Illinois all have prior records. Like ours, these occurred during spring migration, when Swainson's Warblers occasionally overshoot the northern edge of their range. In other words, be on the lookout in spring—and have your cameras and recorders ready!

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Meet Two Iowa Birders: Rex and Maria Rundquist

Stuart Sparkman



Figure 1. Maria and Rex Rundquist, Mount Princeton Hot Springs, Colorado, 2 June 2021. Photograph by Sonja Vellinga, Arvada, CO.

Not all birders are lucky enough to have a life partner whose avian passion matches their own. IOU members Rex and Maria Rundquist happen to have this good fortune, and have spent decades together enjoying the wonder of birds. Their unconventional family history is fascinating. Rex grew up near Sioux City, attended Iowa State University, and then studied medicine at University of Iowa. Maria was raised in Mérida, in the Mexican state of Yucatán. Rex took an opportunity to study pediatrics in Yucatán, spending some time first in Guatemala to study Spanish. Maria, an administrative secretary to the head of the medical student exchange program, was the first person Rex encountered when he reported to the hospital in Mérida. They began a romance that led to Maria joining Rex in Cincinnati later that year when he

started his medical residency. They soon married and began a life together enjoying many outdoor activities.

Four years of training in Ohio led to Rex joining a medical group in Fairbanks, Alaska, where the family spent the following nine years. They returned to western Iowa in 1991, where Rex completed a thirty-eight year career in pediatric practice in 2020. He retired following two open-heart surgeries. Rex reports that frequent bird walks outdoors made an important contribution to his recovery. In recent years Maria has also retired after many years of teaching and tutoring Spanish language students. She has since taken up the project of writing her autobiography and is enjoying learning to paint in acrylics. The couple has four adult children distributed in nearby states; Susana is a professor at Colorado State University, Roberto is a businessman in South Dakota, Soren is a GIS professional in Minneapolis, and Sonja is a nurse in the Denver area.

Rex has had a lifelong interest in the outdoors. He has fond memories of time spent outdoors with his science teacher father, hiking, fishing, and learning about nature. He became more interested in birds through an Audubon

group in Alaska, but didn't consider himself a true birder until his return to Sioux City when he was invited to take part in a birdathon event. On that outing he encountered some wood warblers and found himself hooked. Maria started birding with Rex once he had taken the avian plunge, and she soon became a more serious birder after the couple joined the IOU. She is currently president of Loess Hills Audubon Society (LHAS). Like many of us, the Rundquists have been feeding birds for years, and in 2020 they were chosen as hosts by a pair of White-winged Crossbills which stayed around for weeks and was the subject of much interest.

Maria professes a love for owls, and has made them the subject of multiple paintings, citing the stunning look of their eyes as a special quality. She also has an affinity for flamingos. Rex counts among his favorites the spritely Brown Creeper, and in the tropics he always enjoys encountering beautiful trogons. He shares a memory of an unsuccessful quest for a Turquoise-browed Motmot among Mayan ruins in the Yucatán, only to discover the very same avian quarry roosting next to his hostel. Another unforgettable moment for Rex and Maria on the birding trail occurred at Owego wetlands when a raptor flying overhead dropped a headless Yellow-billed Cuckoo onto the road at their feet.

The Rundquists have been active IOU members since the late 1990s, and have attended nearly every meeting since. Rex recently served as IOU secretary, and is currently on the board of directors of Iowa Audubon. Both are eBirders who also contributed data to the recently published Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II, and they regularly participate in backyard bird counts and annual Christmas Bird Counts. Favorite local birding sites for Rex and Maria include Stone State Park, Bacon Creek Park, Luton Wildlife Management Area, and the Owego wetlands. Further afield, they have made the iconic winter birding journey to Sax-Zim Bog no less than five times. Memorable sites beyond US borders include Sian Ka'an on the Caribbean coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico; the Mindo area of northwestern Ecuador; and the Galapagos Islands, where a bold endemic mockingbird created a fond memory by landing on Maria's shoulder. A most favored event for the couple over the years has been Festival de las Aves, a birding marathon in Mexican Yucatán, including the Biosphere Reserve in Celestún, a small fishing community on the Gulf Coast. Other birding destinations have included Costa Rica and Hawaii.

The Rundquists aspire to many more special birding moments ahead now that both are retired. Maria would like to visit Tierra del Fuego in Argentina to view penguins. Rex wants to return to Alaska to do more birding there. A birding trip dream is to make a circuit through South America from Colombia south to Argentina, then back north through the Amazon basin. Keep an eye out for this well-traveled couple at the next IOU meeting, and find out what exciting recent adventures they may have to relate!

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Field Reports—Spring 2021

Connor Patrick Langan



Connor Patrick Langan

WEATHER

Temperatures never dropped into the single digits in March, as Waterloo recorded the lowest temperature, 12°F, on 1 and 2 March. Just as last spring, average temperatures were 7°F above normal or higher in many parts of the state. The high of 77°F occurred in Indianola on 11 March—a surprisingly early day to record the highest temperature for the month. A snowstorm on 15 March in north-central Iowa deposited a substantial

amount of snow, with Estherville recording 5.1 inches. Despite this snowstorm, March snow accumulation was below historical average in nearly all parts of the state. Nevertheless, March precipitation totals were above historical averages in most parts of the state. The decrease in snowfall and increase in precipitation is surely due to the trend of the average monthly temperatures being significantly above the historical averages.

Average monthly temperatures for April were comparable to historical averages in many areas of the state. A low of 12°F on 1 April in Audubon and Estherville matched the low for the month of March. Precipitation totals plunged below historical averages, with areas of northcentral and northeastern Iowa receiving less than an inch of precipitation throughout the month. Beaconsfield recorded the highest daily precipitation total when they received 2.13 inches of rain on 8 April. The Rathbun Dam yielded the most precipitation throughout the month as they received 3.66 inches, which was still below their average historical levels of precipitation. Western Iowa experienced the warmest temperature recorded during April when the high of 89°F was registered on 27 April.

The high of 93°F occurred in Waterloo on 1 May and across much of north-central Iowa on 2 May. Despite high temperatures to start off the month, average temperatures across much of the state were a bit below historical averages. The low temperature of 27°F was recorded in Guthrie Center on 5 May. Rainfall totals for May were barely below historical levels in southern Iowa, but many areas in the northern half of the state experienced totals that were several inches below historical averages. The highest daily precipitation total of May was 2.35 inches in Creston on 9 May. Bloomfield experienced the most precipitation throughout May, although the 5.58 inches received were just a

hair above historical averages for the area.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

About a year after the COVID-19 virus emerged as a tangible threat in the United States, vaccines and social distancing practices allowed this spring to feel far more normal than last. Birders were eager to get out and travel the state after months of being unable to do so.

The onset of waterfowl migration coincided with the beginning of the spring season, with large bodies of water opening up in early March. Temperatures above 70°F by mid-March coupled with precipitation totals above average for the month created ideal conditions for many waterfowl species. Counts of goose species exceeded counts from last spring. Interestingly, dabbling duck numbers dropped off, but diving duck numbers increased this spring. While waterfowl numbers were relatively comparable to the previous spring, waterfowl diversity dramatically increased. A total of 36 species of waterfowl were observed, which is the best count recorded during an Iowa spring season since the modern *Iowa Bird Life* field report formatting became standard in 1980.

Ample shorebird habitat existed yet again this spring thanks to minimal rainfall throughout April and May. In total, an impressive 32 shorebird species were observed, just one fewer than last year's total. However, this spring was unprecedented in terms of early shorebird arrivals, as evidenced by the astonishing eight shorebird species reported within the range of the three earliest dates. Likewise, 12 gull species reported this spring was an equally remarkable statistic. The last time 12 gull species were reported in a spring season was 2014, although it is worth noting that Thayer's Gull and Iceland Gull had not been merged into a single species at that point.

This spring was very much a mixed bag in terms of raptor numbers, as species such as Northern Goshawk and Swainson's Hawk made a strong showing, while Golden Eagle and Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers plummeted compared to previous years. Wind directionality and speed have significant impacts on raptor migration. In the case of Golden Eagles, warm, southerly winds in early March seem to have pushed many birds northward sooner than recent years, leading to fewer reports of the species throughout the spring. The influx of Swainson's Hawks in the state can likely be attributed to westerly winds pushing good numbers of these birds into all reaches of the state.

It was a notably poor spring for wrens and warblers, although an assortment of other species made strong showings in the state this spring. The wren high counts this spring were far below the highs of previous springs, while warbler migration was noticeably brief. Birders across the state noted only a few days of major warbler movements through the state, and many warbler species were already gone following a big migration day on 19 May.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Accidental species documented were Brant, Eurasian Wigeon, Evening Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, and Swainson's Warbler. The Swainson's Warbler was certainly the most notable find, as it is the state's first documented record.

Casual species that were documented were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, King Rail, Little Gull, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Fish Crow, Prairie Warbler, and Western Tanager.

All in all, 15 accidental or casual species were observed this spring, the best spring total since 2014. Six hybrids in the state this spring was one fewer than last spring. Hybrids observed were Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal, Cinnamon Teal x Northern Shoveler, Mallard x American Black Duck, Blue-winged x Green-winged Teal, BLACK-HEADED GULL x Ring-billed Gull, and House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Other notable observations include all three scoters for the first spring since 2017, a handful of Piping Plover reports, Black-legged Kittiwake, Neotropic Cormorant, three Northern Goshawk reports, three Snowy Owl reports, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, and Nelson's Sparrow.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **AHHP** = Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **ERVP** = East River Valley Park, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = national monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SL** = sewage lagoons, **SI** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area, **W** = wetland

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: One on 27 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was the first spring record in four years (*JBo-ph, *BCC-ph, *MHB-ph, *CRE).

Snow Goose: A total of 200,000 on 2 Mar in *Monona* was far and away the high (GLV). Reported through May, one at Jensen M *Madi-son* on 31 May was last (LGR).

Ross's Goose: The high was 500 at Badger L *Monona* on 9 Mar (GLV). An individual on 28 May at Hayes Pit *Buena Vista* was two days

off from the record 3rd latest (DSi-ph).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The high of 30,000 was 6 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (MDR) and 9 Mar at Badger L *Monona* (GLV). An individual that continued through the spring at AHHP *Story* was last reported 31 May (WO).

BRANT: One was observed 23–24 Apr at Pintail W *Hardin* (*TSS-ph, *BCC-ph, *WV-ph, *CW-ph, *AMJ, *TMH, *DyO-ph, *CPL-ph). This accidental species rarely visits

Iowa in the spring, with only a few records from Mar–May. This was the first spring record since 2002.

Cackling Goose: The high was 129 on 7 Mar in *Linn* (Cheryl Nelsen). The 2nd-latest spring record was 15 May at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (Lauri Mattle-ph).

Canada Goose: The high of 10,000 was 2 Mar in *Monona* (GLV).

Mute Swan: Observed in 5 counties, up to three persisted at Mississippi River L&D 14 *Scott* into early May (FSS, CKr, m.ob.), while one was observed on 10 and 13 May at Princeton WA *Scott* (WGH, m.ob.). One at Cone M *Louisa* continued in the area from late Mar until 26 May (DGu-ph, MR, m.ob.). The 2nd-latest record was tied on 29 May when one was observed at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (AM-details, BCC).

Trumpeter Swan: Substantial numbers passed through southeast Iowa from early to mid-Mar, with counts of 350 on 6 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (SMF) and 250 on 7 Mar in *Scott* (KJM, MR).

Tundra Swan: Reported in 11 counties, an impressive spring count of 95 on 19 Mar at Cardinal M *Wineshiek* was the high (BVe-ph). Two reports on 24 Mar were last: 6 at Lewis Bottoms Road *Linn* (JLF) and 3 at Jensen M *Madison* (KP-ph).

Wood Duck: The high of 130 was 1 May at DeSoto NWR *Harri-son* (Gregory Estep, Susan Estep).

Blue-winged Teal: Large numbers were observed throughout Apr, with highs of 475 on 30 Apr at Smith's SI *Clay* (Jon Anderson) and 450 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KH).

Cinnamon Teal: Reports of sin-

gle males in 3 counties: 27–28 Mar at New L *Woodbury* (BFH-ph, RTo-ph, GLV), 15 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB-ph, SJD, JG, RJT), and the record-late observation on 30 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC-details, AM-ph, JMc).

Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: One persisted from 1–6 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC-ph, m.ob.).



Northern Shoveler, Otter Creek Marsh WA, Tama, 1 April 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

Northern Shoveler: The high of 575 was 18 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE).

Cinnamon Teal x Northern Shoveler: A male was observed 5 Apr in *Black Hawk* (WV-ph, BCC-ph).

Gadwall: The high of 650 was 19 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW).

EURASIAN WIGEON: Two reports: a male first found 14 Mar at Mississippi River L&D 14 *Scott* continued through 17 Mar (*FSS-ph, *GDW, *MHB-ph, *BCC-ph, *WV). A second male was found 27 Mar at Markham's Pond WA *Mitchell* (*SSt-ph). These were the first spring records in four years.

American Wigeon: Most were

gone by early May, but a late male on 30 May at AHHP *Story* was last (WO).

Mallard: The high of 5550 was 8 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), a location that has produced the high for this species the past four springs.

American Black Duck: Reported in 14 counties compared to eight last spring, the high of 4 was reported numerous times throughout the season. A female on 4 May in *Hamilton* was last (DyO, KF).

Mallard x American Black Duck: Observed in five counties, most reports came from central Iowa. One on 2 May at McHugh W *Boone* was last (CW).

Northern Pintail: Numbers peaked in mid-Mar, with highs of 1525 on 15 Mar (BE) and 1350 on 13 Mar (AB) were at Jester P *Polk*. Last were 4 on 30 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi).

Mallard x Northern Pintail: A male was observed at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* from 25–28 Apr (TW-ph, m.ob.).



Green-winged Teal, Pickerel Lake, Buena Vista, 20 March 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefert, Storm Lake, IA.

Green-winged Teal: Highs were

1000 on 16 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JBo) and 840 on 13 Mar at Hendrickson M *Story* (SSP). One on 29 May at Trumbull L *Clay* was last (DSi).

Blue-winged x Green-winged Teal: One on 16 Apr at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* was the lone record (RWR-ph).

Canvasback: Highs of 3000 on 14 Mar and 2000 on 27 Mar were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). A group of 6 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* lingered well into May, being last observed on 24 May (TM).

Redhead: High: 400 on 14 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). This species persisted through May.

Ring-necked Duck: Peak numbers were observed in mid-Mar, with highs of 1500 on 13 Mar (AB) and 1100 on 15 Mar (BE) at Jester P *Polk*. A pair on 30 May in *Benton* were last (David Steil-ph).

Greater Scaup: Reported in 23 counties, the high of 19 was 9 Mar in *Scott* (KJM). One on 25 Apr at Brower L *Woodbury* was last (BFH).

Lesser Scaup: Numbers peaked from mid to late Mar with the high of 4500 on 14 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Single males on 29 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, POR) and McHugh W *Boone* (CuF-ph) were last.

Surf Scoter: Sightings were reported around Saylorville Res *Polk* for much of the season. One observed 10 Apr was first (AB-ph, m.ob.), while 2 on 26 Apr was the high (SJD). One on 30 May became the record-late observation (PF).

White-winged Scoter: One on 10 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the lone observation of the spring

(AB-ph, SJD, RJT).

Black Scoter: Two females continued into the spring season until 7 Mar at Credit Island P *Scott* (FSS, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck: Observed in a fantastic seven counties, first were 1 Mar when one was in *Linn* (JF) and 3 were at Mississippi River L&D 14 *Scott* (SMF). The 2nd-latest record was tied on 12 May when an immature male was at Deere Dike Dubuque (DAS-ph, CKr, TM).

Bufflehead: Numbers were low this spring, and the high of 50 was 12 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD). A female on 20 May at the same location was last (RLC).

Common Goldeneye: Highs of 500 on 5 Mar (Rebecca Nunley) and 400 on 12 Mar (RAS) were along the Mississippi R *Scott*. A late individual on 24 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* was last (TM).



Hooded Merganser, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 31 March 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Hooded Merganser: Numbers rebounded following low numbers last spring, with the high of 103 on 14 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Common Merganser: Numbers peaked in mid-Mar, and the high of

940 was 13 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). A pair on 30 May along the Shell Rock R *Cerro Gordo* raises questions about potential nesting (MH-ph, JK).

Red-breasted Merganser: Numbers peaked from mid to late Mar, with highs of 172 on 16 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 170 on 27 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG). Two females on 22 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* were last (TE-ph).

Ruddy Duck: Numbers peaked from late Mar to mid-Apr, with highs of 375 on 27 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 325 on 27 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Northern Bobwhite: Reported in 18 counties, the high of 7 was 31 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JBo-ph, AM-ph, TDr).

Ring-necked Pheasant: The high of 34 was 10 Apr at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (RLC).

Gray Partridge: Reported in 18 counties, the high of 4 was 4 Apr at Harmon L *Winnebago* (RAS).

Ruffed Grouse: No reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: As usual, all reports came from Kellerton WA *Ringgold*. Eleven on 3 Apr was the high (Erica Place).

Wild Turkey: High: 50 on 7 Mar in Mills (Keith Roragen).

Pied-billed Grebe: Numerous reports on 6 Mar marked the arrival of this species. Large numbers were observed throughout Apr, and the high of 140 on 21 Apr at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KH) highlighted a spring season with terrific numbers.

Horned Grebe: First were 3 on 7 Mar at Credit Island P *Scott* (SMF, m.ob.). Substantial numbers were re-

ported at AHHP *Story* from late Mar to mid-Apr, with the high being 13 on 16 Apr (Kevin Bourke). Last was 8 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (WO, MP).

Red-necked Grebe: With reports in six counties, numbers were up this season compared to the past couple of springs. First was 13 Apr at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF, m.ob.). A migrant on 2 May at L Sugema *Van Buren* (CH) was notable, as this species is rarely reported in this part of the state. Two on 30 May at Trumbull L *Clay* were likely breeders (LAS, JTi).

Eared Grebe: Observed in half as many counties (7) as last spring, one on 1 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* was first (DAS). Five on 21 Apr at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* was the high (KH). One on 30 May at Colo Bogs *Story* was last (HZ-ph).

Western Grebe: Four reports from four counties: one on 22 Apr at Little Clear L *Pocahontas* (DSi-ph), one on 25 Apr at L Cornelia *Wright* (SJD-ph), 2 on 7 May at Clear L *Buena Vista* (DSi), and one on 23 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Low numbers reported this spring, with the high of 11 on 25 Mar in *Pottawattamie* (KJM).

White-winged Dove: No reports

Mourning Dove: High: 44 on 6 Mar at Sedan Bottoms WA *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Firsts were 8 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (KVS, SCS) and Shimek SF *Lee* (RJT). The high of 8 was 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO) and 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Promising numbers this spring, with reports in 27 counties. First was 3 May in *Jefferson* (Joe Stojak). The high of 3 was 22 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (TM) and 31 May in *Jackson* (Rodney East).

Common Nighthawk: First was 2 May in *Dallas* (PF). A tally of 45 on 17 May at Credit Island P *Scott* was by far the highest count (Jennifer Anderson-Cruz).

Chuck-will's-widow: Not recorded at their traditional location in Stephens SF this spring, the lone reports were from Folsom Point Preserve *Mills* with one on 9 May (Nicholas Salick) and 2 on 13 May (KH, CST).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Reported in nine counties, first was 24 Apr in *Monona* (Caleb Kilpatrick). Four in Stephens SF *Lucas* on 31 May was the high (SSP).

Chimney Swift: A handful of reports on 26 Apr signified the arrival of this species. Numbers peaked in mid-May, and the high of 100 was 15 May in *Madison* (Sheryl Galvez).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First was 24 Apr in *Appanoose* (Jill Marshall). The high of 8 was both 17 and 18 May in *Pottawattamie* (Dominique De Caprona).

KING RAIL: The first spring report since 2016, one was observed 1 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (*KJAB-ph, *TM-ph).

Virginia Rail: Numbers were down this year, as this species was only reported in 16 counties. For the second consecutive year, the first were 10 Apr, with 3 being observed at Goose L *Clinton* (KJM, MR). One on 26 May in Ames *Story* was last

(Chris Currans *fide* SJD).

Sora: Two on 10 Apr at Goose L *Clinton* were first (KJM, MR). The high of 8 was 22 May at Cone M *Louisa* (MR).

Common Gallinule: Observed in six counties, first was 24 Apr at Princeton WA *Scott* (SMF). The high of six was 26 May at Cone M *Louisa* (MR). One at Kiowa M *Sac* on 28 May was the northwesternmost report (DSi-ph).

American Coot: Highs of 5500 on 11 Apr (BW) and 5000 on 10 Apr (CKr, TM) were at Green Island WA *Jackson*.

Sandhill Crane: Three on 2 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* were first (TE). A fantastic total of 250 birds that were almost certainly Lesser Sandhill Cranes on 16 Mar in *Cass* was the high (Michael Good).



Black-necked Stilt, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 16 May 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

Black-necked Stilt: The record early report was 20 Mar at Bank

Swallow Bend Wildlife Area *Warren* (IB-ph), while one on 8 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* was also notable (BVL). Numbers increased for the second consecutive year, with reports from 12 counties. The high of 8 was 10 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Seth Chamberlain).

American Avocet: Three early arrivals on 10 Apr at Diamond Lake WA *Dickinson* were first (JTi). Reported in 25 counties, one on 26 May at McHugh W *Boone* was last (WO).

Black-bellied Plover: Reported in seven counties, the 3rd-earliest record was reported 17 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (SMF-details). The high of 15 was 19 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Last were 30 May with 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 3–5 at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JTi).

American Golden-Plover: Reported in 19 counties, 9 on 30 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* were first (CKr). Peaking from late Apr through early May, an exceptional count of 210 on 24 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* was the high (MHB). Four on 30 May at Trumbull L *Clay* were last (LAS, JTi).

Semipalmated Plover: Two on 10 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* were first (MHB-ph, BT). The high of 40 was 14 May at the same location (JMc). This species was reported through May this spring.

Piping Plover: A fantastic spring for this species, with reports from five counties: one on 19 Apr at Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (GLV), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 24 Apr (SJD) and again on 8 May (AB) and 10 May (RJT-ph, TJD-ph), one on 2 May at Markham's Pond *Mitchell*

(SSSt), 1–2 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 14 May (JE, BCC-ph, m.ob.), and 2 on 16 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Killdeer: First was 1 Mar at Deep Lakes P *Muscatine* (Peter Leabhart). The high of 69 was 1 Apr in *Clinton* (MR).

Upland Sandpiper: Two on 11 Apr at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* were first (Megan Kruse). Reports of this species have increased in three consecutive years, with records from 22 counties this spring. Three on 29 May at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* was the high (JG).

Whimbrel: No reports

Hudsonian Godwit: Reported in 14 counties, one on 12 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was first (JF). The high of 26 was 24–25 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DyO, AB). One on 30 May at Trumbull L *Clay* was last (LAS, JTi).

Marbled Godwit: Reported in 8 counties, firsts were 18 Apr with singles at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT), McHugh W *Boone* (CuF), and 4 at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph). The high was 18 on 23 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC, RJT).

Ruddy Turnstone: Reported in an average seven counties, 3 on 6 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* were first (AB-ph). Exceptional counts of 55 on 25 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 33 on 16 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) were the highs. This species continued through May this spring.

Stilt Sandpiper: Reported in 13 widely scattered counties, first was 15 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW). Highs of 13 were 15 May at

Legacy WA *Hardin* (MPr) and 28 May at New L *Woodbury* (BFH).

Sanderling: First was 23 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, m.ob.). Of the eight counties with reports, the high of 12 was 6 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD) and 26 May at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Dunlin: One on 7 Apr at Kiowa M *Sac* was first (DSi). The high count of 73 was 29 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).



Baird's Sandpiper, Jester Park, Polk, 24 April 2021. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.

Baird's Sandpiper: The record 3rd earliest was 3 on 12 Mar at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi-ph). Tremendous numbers occurred across the state, and highs of 186 on 23 Apr and 100 on 17 Apr were at Synder Bend P *Woodbury* (BFH).

Least Sandpiper: The record early report was 2 on 13 Mar at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi-ph). The high of 150 was 30 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Numbers were phenomenal this spring, peaking from mid- to late May with highs of 300 on 28 May and 200 on 17 May at New L *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper:

Three reports from three counties: one on 3 May at Jensen M *Madison* (Jack Wykoff), 2 in *Wright* from 7–8 May (DCH, KJ), and one on 12 May at Green Acres Sod Farm *Dallas* (RJT-ph).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First was 16 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT). Peaking from late Apr to early May, highs were 750 on 3 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 700 on 25 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Six on 7 Apr at Kiowa M *Sac* made for the record 2nd earliest (DSi-ph). Numbers were up substantially compared to the past two springs, and the high of 425 was 30 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Western Sandpiper: An exceptional spring for this species, with nine reports in six counties. First was 29 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Two on 24 May at Trumbull L *Clay* were both the high and last (NPB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Two on 28 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* were last (AB).

Long-billed Dowitcher: One on 3 Apr at New L *Woodbury* was first (BFH).

American Woodcock: Two on 1 Mar at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* were first (JG). The high was 13 at Mormon Handcart P *Johnson* (TDr).

Wilson's Snipe: First was 6 Mar in *Madison* (SBa). Numbers peaked in early Apr with a high of 61 on 3 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM). One on 25 May at Cayler Prairie State Preserve *Dickinson* was last (NPB).

Wilson's Phalarope: First was 7 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Peaking from late Apr to early May, 45 on 3 May at New L *Woodbury* was the high (POR).



Wilson's Phalarope, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 9 May 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Red-necked Phalarope: Reported in five counties, 2 on 23 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* were the record 2nd earliest (BE). The high of 10 was 10 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).

Spotted Sandpiper: The 2nd-earliest spring report was 4 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc-ph). Peak numbers were reported from early to mid-May, and the high of 23 was 6 May at AHHP *Story* (WO-ph).

Solitary Sandpiper: One on 6 Apr at Terra P *Polk* made for the 3rd-earliest record (SCS-details). The high of 16 was 6 May at AHHP *Story* (WO-ph). Last was 20 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe).

Greater Yellowlegs: Early arrivals on 8 Mar in *Scott* (KJM, MR) and Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (BFH) were first. The high of 75 was 2 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTj).

Willet: First was 13 Apr at McHugh W *Boone* (CW-ph). The high of 70 was 28 Apr at Kiowa M

Sac (DSi).

Lesser Yellowlegs: An early arrival on 10 Mar at New L *Woodbury* was first (BFH). The high of 300 was 28 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JBo).

Black-legged Kittiwake: An exceptionally rare bird to encounter in the spring, one adult on 24 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph) was the first spring report since 2014.

Bonaparte's Gull: One on 16 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was first (AM). Terrific numbers were reported at Saylorville Res *Polk* in mid-Apr where the high was 320 on 17 Apr (AB). Last was 15 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB-ph).

BLACK-HEADED GULL X Ring-billed Gull: One was reported 29 May at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD). This bird was last reported during the spring season in 2017.

LITTLE GULL: Not reported in spring since 2003, two reports from Saylorville Res *Polk*: one juvenile on 24 Apr (*SJD-ph) and one alternate adult on 26 Apr (*SJD-ph).

Laughing Gull: Two reports: one adult on 22 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD-ph) and one first winter bird from 24–30 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT-ph, m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull: One on 4 Mar at the Iowa R—Power Company Dam *Johnson* was first (AM-ph, JBo, TDr). Numbers peaked in late Apr, and 2000 on 27 Apr at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* was the high (KH).

Ring-billed Gull: Numbers peaked in mid-Mar, with highs of 10,000 on 13 and 14 Mar at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (CSt) and 9200 on 14 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

CALIFORNIA GULL: Two reports: One on 27 Mar at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (*CSt) and one on 2 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (*JF-ph, *JMc-ph, *MHB-ph, *CRE, *JBo-ph, *BCC-ph).

Herring Gull: High: 303 on 19 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (KJM, MR). A report of a late bird on 29 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* was last (POR).

Iceland Gull: Reported in six counties, the high of 3 was 3 Mar at Cedar L *Linn* (JF). The 2nd-latest record was one on 29 Apr at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Excellent numbers this spring, with reports in 10 counties. Three on 26 Mar at Coralville Res *Johnson* was the high (JF). This species lingered well into Apr, with reports on 26 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD-ph) and 27 Apr at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).



Laughing Gull, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 22 May 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Glaucous Gull: Reported in three counties: one on 7 Mar at the Iowa R—Power Company Dam *Johnson* (LAr, BAu, m.ob.), one on 8 Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jack-*

son (Ethan Brown-ph), and one 19 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: A terrific spring, with three reports: one first cycle bird on 6 Mar in *Dubuque* (*CKr-ph fide JB), one first cycle bird on 11 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*Peter Kondrashov-ph), and one first cycle bird on 12 Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (*DAS).

Least Tern: Two reports: one on 13 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (POR) and 2 in *Pottawattamie* on 21 May (Ben Ream).

Caspian Tern: One on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* was first (RJT-ph). The high was 61 on 9 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Black Tern: Twelve on 3 May at Storm L *Buena Vista* were first (DSi). The high of 73 was 14 May at Cherokee Sewage Lagoons *Cherokee* (DB).

Common Tern: Reported in eight counties, first was 1 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). The high of 21 was 14 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The last was at the same location on 29 May (AB).

Forster's Tern: One on 14 Apr at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* was first (NoN, Lily Forsell). The high of 55 was 6 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DyO).

Common Loon: One on 20 Mar at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (LAr, BAu, m.ob.). Twelve on 16 Apr at AHHP *Story* was the high (DyO, KF, JoG, SHo). This species persisted through May.

Neotropic Cormorant: One on 17 Apr at M.U. Payne WA *Fremont* was the sole report (SJD)

Double-crested Cormorant:

One on 4 Mar at Principal P *Polk* was first (DD). Peaking in mid-Apr, the high was 2100 on 11 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

American White Pelican: Reported in lower numbers than previous springs, 1000 on 1 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC) and 14 Apr at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (Larry Granat) were highs.

American Bittern: Reported in 12 counties, one on 3 Apr at Chich-aqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was first (JoMc-ph). Two on 10 Apr at Goose L *Clinton* was the high (KJM, MR).

Least Bittern: Numbers were low, with reports from four counties. First was 8 May at Sweet M *Bremer* (KCR). Two on 23 May at Cone M *Louisa* was the high (JMc).

Great Blue Heron: High: 56 on 20 Mar in *Polk* (CW).

Great Egret: One on 24 Mar at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* was first (DSi). Green Island WA *Jackson* attracted large numbers of this species from mid to late May, and the high count was 139 on 16 May (CKr).

Snowy Egret: One day off from the record 3rd earliest, an individual on 5 Apr at AHHP *Story* was first (WO, m.ob.). An explosion of observations was reported, with records from 16 counties. Three on 24 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the high (AB). One on 30 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* was last (TM-ph).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: The first spring report in three years, one was reported 23 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (*DSi-ph).

Cattle Egret: Three on 10 Apr in *Woodbury* were first (RaW-ph). Reported in a widely scattered 13

counties, highs of 13 on 16 May (CKr) and 14 on 30 May (TM) were in *Clinton*.

Green Heron: First: 10 Apr at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (John Koon). The high of 7 was 29 Apr at L Sugema *Van Buren* (KJM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First was on 6 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO, m.ob.). Reported in 13 counties, the high of 9 was 3 May at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, CJF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Two reports after none the past two springs: one on 3 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (JP, BFH-ph, RTo, RWR-ph) and one on 18 May at Leonard Katowski Greenbelt *Black Hawk* (DGE-ph).

GLOSSY IBIS: Observed in 7 consecutive springs, observations of this species have been increasing in the past few years. Nine reports were made this spring: one on 25 Apr at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (*BVL-ph, *RGo-ph, *PH-ph), one on 30 Apr at New L *Woodbury* (*BFH-ph), one on 30 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (*DSi-ph), one on 11 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (*DSi-ph), one on 12 May at McHugh W *Boone* (*RIA-ph/PHA), one on 12 May at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (*DCJ-ph), one on 16 May at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (*DSi-ph), and one at Sandhill L *Woodbury* on 17 May (*BFH-ph, *POR-ph).

White-faced Ibis: The record 3rd earliest was tied on 9 Apr when one was at Center Point W *Linn* (WV-ph, BCC-ph). Reported in 21 counties, the high of 38 was 23 Apr at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).

Turkey Vulture: High: 75 on 24 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (POR).

Osprey: A number of reports on 25 Mar marked the first. Counts of 4–5 at AHHP *Story* from 16–25 Apr (WO).

Golden Eagle: Not widely reported this spring, with observations in seven counties. *Black Hawk* yielded fantastic numbers of this species, with 3 on 4 Mar (CPL-ph) and 5 on 6 Mar (TGS). One on 15 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* was last (BW).

Mississippi Kite: Reported at their traditional haunts in Polk and from 22–31 May at Memorial P *Wapello* (TM-ph, BCC-ph, JMc-ph), 2 on 19 May in *Polk* were first (RJT-ph).

Northern Harrier: The high of 8 was 17 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW-ph). Only a handful of reports were made after mid-May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A poor spring for this species, with the high of 2 being 6 May at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KJM). Last was 13 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Carson Kephart).



Cooper's Hawk, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 23 April 2021. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.

Cooper's Hawk: Highs of 3 were 7 Mar in Grundy Center *Grun-*

dy (CPL), 8 Mar at AHHP *Story* (CPL, MKS), 20 Mar at Ledges SP *Boone* (CPL, MKS), and 27 Apr at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW).

Northern Goshawk: A good spring, with three reports: one adult on 24 Mar at the Fish House, *Carroll* (MTW-ph), one immature on 27 Mar at the Iowa State University Agriculture and Home Economics W *Boone* (CPL-ph), and one immature on 2 Apr in *Johnson* (KJM, TLo).

Bald Eagle: Peaking in early Mar, 360 on 6 Mar in *Johnson* was the high (AC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reported in 32 counties, highs of 3 were in *Bremer* on 6 Mar and 29 May (KCR) and George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* on 3 Apr (CPL, MKS). One on 11 Apr at Lost Island Lake SP *Palo Alto* was the most northerly report (KJM).

Broad-winged Hawk: For the 4th consecutive year, this species arrived on 11 Apr, with the first report being at Prairie Ridge M *Black Hawk* (AKO). Peaking from mid to late Apr, a terrific spring count of 210 was 29 Apr in *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Swainson's Hawk: First was 4 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (Charles Young-ph). Widely regarded as one of the best springs in decades for this species, reports were made in an astonishing 35 counties. Fifty on 21 Apr at Owego W Complex *Woodbury* was the high (GLV). This species was found in good numbers in eastern Iowa, with reports from Manikowski Prairie *Clinton* on 14 Apr (MR-ph) and *Muscatine* on 15 Apr (Susan Nixon) being the most easterly reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: The high was

24 on 15 Apr in *Poweshiek* (CPL-ph).

Rough-legged Hawk: The high of 5 was 6 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW). One continued at the same location well into May, being seen last on 11 May (BW).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reported in a widespread 17 counties, the high of 5 was 16 Apr at Yellow Smoke P *Crawford* (KJM).



Great Horned Owl, McHose Park, Boone, 8 May 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Great Horned Owl: The high of 5 was 8 Apr at Osborne P *Clayton* (KJM).

Snowy Owl: A notable spring for this species, with reports from four counties: an immature male was observed 14–16 Mar in both *Polk* and *Story* (AB-ph, m.ob.), one in *Emmett* from 15–17 Apr was a day off from the previous 3rd-latest record (Brian Hellyer-ph *fide* SJD, DAB, Lindsey Rohrbaugh-ph), and one from 20–24 Apr at Santee Prairie *Dickinson* became the 3rd-latest record (Chad Loreth-ph *fide* SJD, ET, JTi-ph).

Barred Owl: The high of 9 was 12 Mar at Lake Iowa P *Iowa* (KJM).

Long-eared Owl: Reported in three counties: 1–2 from 6–8 Mar at Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area

Dubuque (TM, CKr), 1–3 from 6 Mar–1 Apr at High Trestle Trail *Boone* (DyO, KF, Caleb Krueger-ph, SHo, KSm, RSi, m.ob.) and 3–5 from 9–20 Mar at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KVZ).

Short-eared Owl: Reported in eight counties, highs of 2 were 8 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), 3–4 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JBo-ph, BCC-ph), and 21 Apr at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (BR). One on 26 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* was last (MTW, VW-ph).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Reported in three counties: 1–2 from 3–6 Mar at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (TDr-ph, m.ob.), one from 3–20 Mar at AHHP *Story* (PMi-ph, JoMc, m.ob.), and 1–2 from 9–24 Mar at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KVZ, TKr).

Belted Kingfisher: The high of 3 was made on numerous occasions throughout the spring.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The first was 9 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW).

Pileated Woodpecker: A slew of reports in western Iowa from *Harrison*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury* were notable.

Northern Flicker: Numbers were low this spring, with the high of 18 on 1 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Merlin: A lackluster spring for this species, with reports in 16 counties. No more than one was observed at any point, and last was 11 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Andrew Meiborg, BCC, DH-ph).

Peregrine Falcon: Observed in 26 counties, the high of 2 was reported many times.

Prairie Falcon: No reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First was 7 May at Shimek SF *Van Buren* (DyO-ph, KF, JoG, KSm, RSi). No more than 2 were reported at any location.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One on 2 May at Peggy's Trail *Story* (Tyler Grant-ph) and 2 at Shimek SF *Van Buren* (JG) were first. Counts of 15 on 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO), 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (SSP), and 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP) were highs.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: An early arrival on 8 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* was a day off from the record 3rd earliest (AKO). Reported in 18 counties, highs of 3 were at ERVP *Story* 28 May (SSP) and 29 May (WiC).



Pileated Woodpecker, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Van Buren, 25 May 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

Acadian Flycatcher: An assortment of reports on 7 May marked the first. Reported in 25 counties, one on 29 May at Dolliver Memorial SP

Webster was the most northwesterly (ABu, BTh). Nine on 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* was the high (SSP).

Alder Flycatcher: An early arrival on 7 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* tied the record 2nd earliest (POR-ph). Peaking in late May, 12 on 26 May at ERVP *Story* was the high (SSP).

Willow Flycatcher: One on 7 May at Brookside P *Story* was first (Kyla Yuza-Pate, Tracy Heath). Ten on 19 May at Cone M *Louisa* was the high (JKe).

Least Flycatcher: First was an early arrival on 27 Apr at Iowa State University Arboretum *Story* (JoMc). Highs of 10 were 6 May at ERVP *Story* (PMi, DyO) and 15 May at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW).

Eastern Phoebe: One on 13 Mar at Osborne P *Clayton* was first (KJM).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Many reports on 27 Apr marked the first. The high of 15 was 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO).

Western Kingbird: Reported in six counties, with the first on 12 May in Ankeny *Polk* (RJT). The furthest east report was one on 13 May in *Johnson* (WV-ph).

Eastern Kingbird: One on 24 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was first (ELi). Highs of 18 were 18 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 29 May at Cone M *Louisa* (DGu).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: The lone report was 20 May in *Polk* (RIA/PHA).

White-eyed Vireo: Reported in 12 counties as far north as *Dubuque*, first were 2 on 29 Apr in *Van Buren* (KJM).

Bell's Vireo: Four on 29 Apr at L

Sugema Van Buren tied the 3rd-earliest record (KJM). The high of 14 on 29 May at Riverton WA *Fremont* doubled the high of last spring (JG).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Firsts were 27 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, SCS). Eight on 18 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* was the high (BFH, RTo, JP).

Blue-headed Vireo: Firsts were 27 Apr at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW) and Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). Five on 6 May at ERVP *Story* was the high (PMi, DyO). One on 29 May at Calkins Nature Area *Hardin* was a day off from the 3rd-latest record (KJM).

Philadelphia Vireo: Firsts were 2 May at Peggy's Trail *Story* (EEO) and Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NoN). Numbers were low, as no more than 2 were observed in any report. A number of reports of 23 May represented the last.

Warbling Vireo: On par with the arrival date from the past two years, one on 24 Apr at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* was first (Greg Osland). Forty on 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* was far and away the high count (EEO).

Red-eyed Vireo: Four on 29 Apr at Lake *Sugema Van Buren* were first (KJM). The high was 25 on 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (SSP).

Loggerhead Shrike: Low numbers, with reports from five southern counties. First was 26 Mar in *Union* (ABu) and the high was 2 at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (Cindy/Mike Venus).

Northern Shrike: Reports of singles in 10 counties. This species did not linger this spring, as the last



Blackburnian Warbler, Riverview RA, Black Hawk, 17 May 2021. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.



Great-tailed Grackle, Bays Branch WA, Guthrie, 3 April 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Great Horned Owl, McHose Park, Boone, 27 April 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Marbled Godwits, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 30 April 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



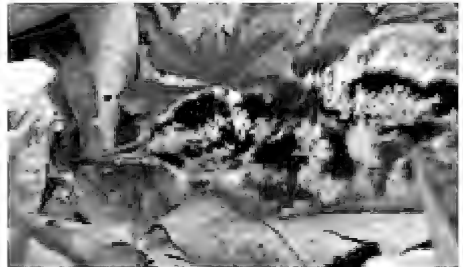
Wood Duck, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 26 March 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Little Blue Heron, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 23 May 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Gray-cheeked Thrush, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson, 2 May 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



American Woodcock, Stephens State Forest, Lucas, 18 April 2021. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.



Northern Pintail, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 6 March 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Red-breasted Merganser, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 6 May 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



King Rail, Deere Dike, Dubuque, 1 May 2021. Photograph by Tony Moline, Dubuque, IA.



Ruddy Turnstone, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 25 May 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



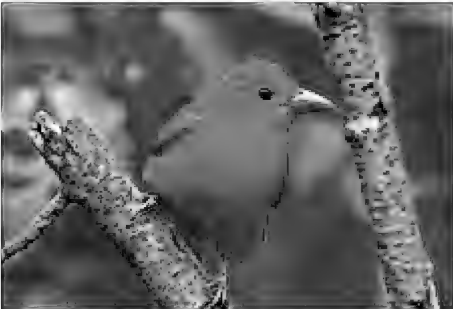
American Avocets, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 26 April 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Blue Grosbeak, Jester Park, Polk, 9 June 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Great Blue Heron, Saylorville Reservoir spillway, Polk, 27 April 2021. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.



Summer Tanager, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 8 May 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Dunlin, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 15 May 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Swainson's Hawk, near Lake Sugema, Van Buren, 15 April 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



Lincoln's Sparrow, Goeldner Woods, Madison, 27 April 2021. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Semipalmated Plover, Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, Johnson, 28 April 2021. Photograph by Jayden Bowen, Iowa City, IA.



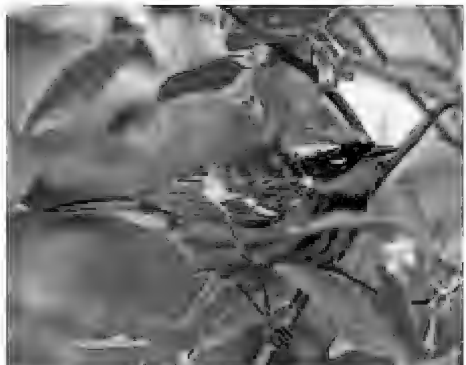
Snowy Egret, Birdland Park, Polk, 20 April 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fuller Road, Polk, 20 May 2021. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Northern Parula, Emma McCarthy Lee Park, Story, 27 April 2021. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.



Magnolia Warbler, Kuehn Conservation Area, Dallas, 14 May 2021. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.



Louisiana Waterthrush, Kuehn Conservation Area, Dallas, 14 May 2021. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.



Hooded Warbler, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Van Buren, 13 May 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Bay-breasted Warbler, James Miller Park, Poweshiek, 20 May 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Short-billed Dowitchers, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 15 May 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

was 24 Mar at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (NoN).

FISH CROW: The sixth consecutive spring with reports, this species was reported in two locations: 1–2 were reported from 11 Mar–30 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*TJD-ph, *SCS, *JB, *WO-ph, *DyO-ph) and another was reported 11 May at Starr’s Cave and Preserve *Des Moines* (*MP).

Horned Lark: Aside from the high of 96 on 15 Mar at Seven Cities Sod Farm *Scott* (MR), numbers were low for the second consecutive spring.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Three on 6 Apr in *Muscatine* were first (WGH). The high was 42 on 13 May at Bjorkboda M *Hamilton* (AK).

Purple Martin: First was 26 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh, WV). The high of 55 was 25 May at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Tree Swallow: An early arrival on 11 Mar at AHHP *Story* was first (CPL, MKS).

Bank Swallow: First was 15 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO). The high of 150 was 18 May at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (DAB).

Barn Swallow: First was 3 Apr at AHHP *Story* (SSP). The high of 200 was 9 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Cliff Swallow: First was 12 Apr at Lake Ridge Pond *Johnson* (JBo). The high of 600 was 28 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Firsts were 20 Mar with one at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* (MHB) and 3 at Dolliver Memorial SP *Webster* (JoMc). A substantial count of

61 on 1 Apr at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* was the high (CPL-ph, MKS). One on 9 May at Lake Darling SP *Washington* became the 3rd-latest record (SFr-details).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First was 21 Mar at Winegar P *Benton* (WV). Numbers were fairly low this spring, with the high of 19 being 28 Apr at Ice Cave Hill P *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reported statewide in over half of the counties, 6 at Osborne P *Clayton* was the high (KJM). Lingered into the end of May, the last was 31 May at Dordt Prairie *Sioux* (KVZ).

Brown Creeper: Peaking from early to mid-Apr, 8 on 9 Apr at Ledges SP *Boone* was the high (DyO). Last was 17 May at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (Neil Skoog, Sam Jolly).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One on 10 Apr at Terra P *Polk* was first (KVS, SCS). Highs of 12 were at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* on both 3 and 10 May (RJT).

House Wren: On par with the previous two years, the first arrived on 8 Apr in *Scott* (RAS). The high of 25 was 21 May at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

Winter Wren: Low numbers this spring, with reports from 17 counties. A late individual on 13 May at Proving Grounds RA *Dubuque* was last (DAS).

Sedge Wren: Firsts were 27 Apr at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO) and Hardscratch Springs Game Reserve *Harrison* (PaP). Numbers were very low, with the high of 5 on 10 May in *Fayette* (PDBS).

Marsh Wren: First was 21 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS). Similar to other wren species, numbers

were low, and highs of 10 were 16 May at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (SPu) and 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO).

Carolina Wren: One on 26 Apr in *Clay* was the furthest northwest (LAS).

Bewick's Wren: First report was one on 15 Apr at Argyle Junkyard *Lee*, the traditional location for this species (BCC-ph). Singles were reported at this location through May.

Gray Catbird: A multitude of reports from 27 Apr marked the first. The high of 34 was 17 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB).

Brown Thrasher: First was 30 Mar at AHHP *Story* (WO). The high of 7 was 3 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO).



Northern Mockingbird, East River Valley Park, Story, 16 April 2021. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.

Northern Mockingbird: First was 7 Apr at ERVP *Story* (DyO-ph, KF, KSm, SHo, m.ob.). Reported in nine counties, one at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* on 15 May was the north-westernmost report (MTW, EEO).

Townsend's Solitaire: Two on 6 Mar at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (SJD) made for the first spring report in five years.

Veery: A day off from the 3rd-earliest record, one on 2 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* was first (MHB-ph). Probable breeders were detected with 3 on 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* and 2 on 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP-details).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: A number of reports on 28 Apr marked the first. Two at Hickory Hills P *Warren* were last (KJM).

Swainson's Thrush: Singles on 26 Apr at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NoN-ph) and Water Works P *Polk* (RJT-ph) were first. The high of 34 was 10 May at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB).

Hermit Thrush: First was 28 Mar at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RaW-ph). Poor numbers were observed, and the high of 5 was 23 Apr at Mormon Handcart P *Johnson* (TDr).

Wood Thrush: First was 27 Apr at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (LeG). Highs of 9 were 21 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (TM) and 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (SSP).

American Robin: Highs were at AHHP *Story* with 700 on 6 Mar (SSP) and 620 on 11 Mar (CPL, PMi).

Cedar Waxwing: Numbers expectedly decreased as the season progressed, and the high of 129 was 1 Mar at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: The high of 50 was 14 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (TW, Danelle Waters). Reported in 28 counties, this species continues to expand its range in the state. Reports from *Clayton* on 13 Mar (KJM) and *Dallas* on 11 May (Melissa Ramsey-ph) were notable.

House x Eurasian Tree Spar-

row: Two reports: 1–2 at AHHP *Story* for the entirety of the spring (WO-ph, m.ob.) and one on 27 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG-ph).

American Pipit: Reported in 19 counties, firsts were 13 Mar with 2 at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi-ph) and 6 at Legacy WA *Hardin* (MP). Persisting well into May, the last was 16 May at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (MHB-ph).

EVENING GROSBEAK: The first spring report since 2018, two on 20 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* made for the lone record (*SJD).

Purple Finch: Peaking in late Apr, the high of 15 was 26 Apr in *Dickinson* (LiP-ph). A late female at the same location on 16 May was last (LiP).

Common Redpoll: The first spring reports since 2018, four accounts were submitted: 2 on 2 Mar in *Cerro Gordo* (Curt Nelson), one on 7 Mar in Roland *Story* (CuF-ph), 9 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB-ph), and one on 13 Mar in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

Red Crossbill: A male on 13 Mar in Hawarden *Sioux* was the lone report (Rachel DeBoer).

White-winged Crossbill: Four reports: 1–2 from 1–4 Mar in *Woodbury* (RWR-ph, Maria Rundquist), a female observed on several instances 10–19 Mar at Lake Meyer P *Winneshiekie* (Larry Reis-ph), a female on 12 Mar in Ames *Story* (Joel Coats, SJD-ph), and up to 8 through 30 Mar in Johnston *Polk* (Charlotte Noble *fide* SJD).

Pine Siskin: A terrific spring for this species, with the high of 75 being 14 May in Boone (KJ-ph). Numbers persisted throughout May, with

several observers noting breeding behaviors.

Lapland Longspur: Good numbers reported, with highs of 523 on 11 Apr in Palo Alto (KJM) and 500 on 2 Mar in *Monona* (GLV). Reported in 20 counties, last was 3 May in *Scott* (Britt Vickstrom-ph).

Smith's Longspur: Reported in only four counties, a group of 25 on 7 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was first (AB). The high count of 62 was at the same location on 21 Mar (ABu, BTh). One on 19 Apr at Lehman Organic Farm *Polk* was last (JB).

Snow Bunting: One on 12 Mar at Hanlontown SI *Worth* was the lone report (JB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: One on 19 Apr in *Story* was first (DyO). Ten on 22 May at Loess Hills WA *Monona* was the high (JG).

Chipping Sparrow: Poor numbers this spring, with the high of 32 on 9 May at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* (KJM).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Firsts were 26 Apr with one in *Buchanan* (WV) and 2 in *Dickinson* (LiP-ph). The high was 11 on 11 May at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (Daniel Swier).

Field Sparrow: An early migrant on 5 Mar in *Washington* was first (ELi). The high of 21 was 29 Apr at L Sugema *Van Buren* (KJM).

Lark Sparrow: One on 10 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* was first (Edith Dawson).

American Tree Sparrow: The high of 100 was 15 Mar at Garlock SI *Dickinson* (JTi). One on 23 Apr at Legacy WA *Hardin* was last (TSS).

Fox Sparrow: One on 6 Mar at the Van Ersvelde property *Poweshiek*

was first (RVE). Highs of 25 were 26 Mar at Don Williams RA *Boone* (DyO) and 3 Apr at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). The 3rd-latest record was set on 5 May at AHHP *Story* (DyO-ph).

Dark-eyed Junco: Peaking late Mar, the high of 150 was 26 Mar at Don Williams RA *Boone* (DyO). Lingering into mid-May, one persisted at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* until 16 May (JDM, NBe).

White-crowned Sparrow: The high of 17 was 29 Apr at Peggy's Trail *Story* (WiC, Ethan Ellis). One on 22 May in *Linn* was last (Paul Morf).

Harris's Sparrow: High: 30 on 11 May at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (KVZ). Singles on 21 May in *Story* at ERVP (SSP) and McFarland P (Robert Kappmeyer) were last.

White-throated Sparrow: For the first time since spring 2015, the high did not reach triple digits, with 80 on 28 Apr at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* being the most (JTi). Singles on 23 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB-ph) and Glidden *Carroll* (VW).

Vesper Sparrow: One on 25 Mar in West Liberty *Muscatine* was first (WGH). Highs of 7 (SCS) and 5 (RJT) were 5 Apr at Red Feather Prairie *Polk*.

LeConte's Sparrow: Reported in four counties: singles on 28 Apr and 9 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph), one on 1 May at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (SM, CAI, SBr), one on 18 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (BFH, RTo, JP), and one 19 May at AHHP *Story* (EEO).

Nelson's Sparrow: For the third consecutive year, a single report was

made, with one being observed 16 May in *Butler* (PDBS).

Savannah Sparrow: Firsts were 21 Mar with one in *Monona* (KJM, MR) and 2 at Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor *Story* (CPL, PMi, WiC-ph, Jordan Och). Numbers were low, and the high of 10 was 1 May at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (SM, CAI, SBr).

Henslow's Sparrow: Two on 25 Apr at Lake Sugema *Van Buren* were first (TMC). Reported in 17 counties, numbers were down from the past few years, and 12 on 29 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* was the high (KVS).

Song Sparrow: The top four counts came from Deere Dike *Dubuque*, with 46 on 29 Apr being the high (KJAB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One on 30 Mar at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* was first (KP-ph). Numbers peaked in mid-May, and the high of 10 was 7 May at AHHP *Story* (WO). Two days off of the 3rd-latest observation, one on 29 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* was last (DSi).

Swamp Sparrow: Numbers were down compared to recent years, and the high of 20 was on 10 Apr at Goose L Clinton (KJM, MR).

Spotted Towhee: Reported in three counties: 2 on 10 Mar and one on 27 Apr at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (KP-ph), one on 10 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), and 1–2 reported from 27 Apr–13 May at Bacon Creek P (RWR-ph, RaW) and Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center (Mitch Hurt, TKr) *Woodbury*.

Eastern Towhee: One on 9 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* was first (AB). The high of 38 was 9 May at

Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* (KJM).



Bullock's Oriole, private property near Riceville, Mitchell, 4 May 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Encouraging numbers this spring, with reports from 13 counties. One on 1 May at Shimek SF *Lee* was first (ELi). Highs of 10 on 12 May (JE) and 9 on 16 May (CRE) were at the same location. Multiple reports in *Black Hawk* from 22–29 May represented the furthest north individuals.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reports on 13 Mar of one at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi) and 2 at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* (SJD-ph) became the 2nd-earliest records. The high of 40 was 29 Apr at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (LeG).

Bobolink: Firsts were 30 Apr with one at Dunbar SI *Greene* (KVS, SCS) and 2 at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (KVS, SCS). Twenty on 20 May at McAndrews WA *Clinton* was the high (MR).

Western Meadowlark: Surprisingly, the high count was from the eastern border of the state when 10 were at Seven Cities Sod Farm *Scott* (MR).

Eastern Meadowlark: Three on 5 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* were first (KVS, SCS). The high of 40

was 3 Apr at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (KJM, TLo).

Orchard Oriole: First was 27 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (TDr-ph). The high of 10 was 13 May at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (LAr, BAu).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: Two reports: one adult male 4–5 May in *Mitchell* (*BCC-ph, *CW-ph, *WV-ph) and an immature male 8–11 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (*CMi-ph, *GDW-ph, *BCC-ph, *TM-ph).

Baltimore Oriole: Firsts were 26 Apr at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW) and *Greene* (CR). The high of 30 was 9 May at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* (KJM).

Red-winged Blackbird: The high of 8000 was 10 Apr at Goose Lake *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Rusty Blackbird: Firsts were 1 Mar at Big Woods L *Black Hawk* (DGE) and Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW). The top three counts came from AHHP *Story*, where the high was 130 on 20 Mar (SSP). Last was 25 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO, Isaac Caron).



Brewer's Blackbird, Cone Marsh, Louisa, 24 April 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Brewer's Blackbird: First were 4 Mar with 19 at AHHP *Story* (Carla

Delucchi). Reported in 26 counties, highs were 56 on 22 Mar at Peterson P *Story* (DNH) and 55 on 24 Apr at Pintail W *Hardin* (SSP). Six on 1 May at New L *Woodbury* were last (BFH, JP).

Common Grackle: Highs were 7618 on 27 Mar in *Scott* (KJM) and 7550 on 12 Mar in *Story* (CPL-ph, PMi).

Great-tailed Grackle: First was 12 Mar at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi). Reported in 17 counties west of *Hardin*, the high of 38 was 29 Apr at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (CW-ph).

Ovenbird: Firsts were 27 Apr in *Scott* (RAS) and Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JMc). The top four counts were in Stephens SF, with the high being 17 on 30 May at the Thousand Acres Unit *Monroe* (SSP).

Worm-eating Warbler: Found at the traditional location within Shimek SF *Lee* from 22–31 May (TM-ph, m.ob.).

Louisiana Waterthrush: One at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 6 Apr was first (TNJ). Reported in 28 counties, highs of 5 were 7 May at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (Shari Schwartz, John Carlini) and 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP). Reports in *Webster* and *Woodbury* were notable northern records.

Northern Waterthrush: One on 25 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* was first (DGu). Peaking in early May, the high of 12 was 8 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS). Last was one on 30 May at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (KVS, SCS).

Golden-winged Warbler: One on 27 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* tied for the record-early report (JMc-ph). Highs of 5 were 8

May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RJT) and Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (RJT). After nearly two dozen reports across the state on 19 May, no further reports were made.

Blue-winged Warbler: An assortment of reports in *Johnson* on 28 Apr marked the first. The best numbers were reported in southern Iowa where this species breeds, and highs of 7 were 13 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB, JBo, AM) and 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP).

Black-and-white Warbler: Arriving on 21 Apr for the third consecutive year, one at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* was first (Brian Roberts). Highs of 8 were at the same location 4 May (NoN), 6 May at ERVP *Story* (PMi, DyO), and 6–7 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JKe, RJT). One on 26 May at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* was last (Deborah Barnes).

Prothonotary Warbler: First was 30 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). Counts of 24 on 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO) and 19 at Pool SI *Allamakee* (SPu) were the only counts in the double digits.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One found 20 May at ERVP *Story* was the first state record (EEO, *SJD-ph, *TMH, *WO-ph, *CW-ph).

Tennessee Warbler: Firsts were 27 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and 2 in *Johnson* (JKe). Peaking in mid-May, 30 on 16 May at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* was the high (RJT).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Arriving late and departing early, first was 22 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JMc-ph) and last were 21

May in a number of locations. The high of 7 was 10 May at Yellow Smoke P *Crawford* (KJM).

Nashville Warbler: First was 27 Apr at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NoN). Peaking from early to mid-May, 21 on 5 May at Ledges SP *Boone* was the high (KJ). Last was 29 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (AM).

Connecticut Warbler: An early arrival on 8 May in *Jackson* was first (BW). Counties with reports crashed back into the single digits, with reports made in eight counties this spring. One in *Linn* on 31 May was last (JE).

Mourning Warbler: Firsts were 12 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (JE) and Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (TJD). The high of 5 was 19 May at ERVP *Story* (SSP). This species persisted through May.

Kentucky Warbler: Firsts were 29 Apr with one in *Polk* (UDG-ph) and 3 in *Van Buren* (KJM). Reported in 18 counties, birds in *Boone* and *Woodbury* were notable. The high of 5 was 12 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (JE).

Common Yellowthroat: An assortment of reports on 27 Apr marked the first. The high of 53 was 12 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Hooded Warbler: One on 29 Apr at L Sugema *Van Buren* was first (KJM). Reported in six counties, numbers were far fewer than last spring. One in *Clayton* on 13 May was the furthest north (Cinda Crosley), while 2 on 12 May in Shimek SF *Van Buren* was the high (JE).

American Redstart: Singles on 30 Apr at Squirrel Hollow WA *Greene* (KVS, SCS), Otter Creek M *Tama* (Warren Wicks), and Nations

Bridge P *Guthrie* (Sally Waterhouse) were first. The high was 55 on 23 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EEO).

Cape May Warbler: One on 2 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was first (JMc-ph, JDM, NBe, JBo, WV). Reported in 21 counties, no more than 2 were observed. A multitude of reports on 19 May marked the last.

Cerulean Warbler: One on 1 May at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* was first (DAS, CKr). Numbers were up from last spring, with reports in 16 counties—most of which were in eastern Iowa. Reports from central Iowa at ERVP *Story* on 10 May (SSP), Yellow Smoke Park *Crawford* on 10 May (KJM), and Sycamore Access *Polk* on 16 May (KVS, SCS) were notable. Twelve on 7 May at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* was the high (Kathleen Carlyle-ph).

Northern Parula: One on 8 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* was first (TMC, JJo). Highs of 7 were 7 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Mark Madsen) and 8 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (KVS, SCS).

Magnolia Warbler: Arriving early this spring, the 3rd-earliest record was made on 30 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB-ph). Peaking in mid-May, highs of 7 were 14 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NoN) and 19 May at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First was 4 May at Des Moines Y Camp *Boone* (AK). Eight on 17 May at Lime Creek Nature Center *Cerro Gordo* was the high (KJM). Late migrants on 29 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, SCS) and Catkins Na-

ture Area *Hardin* were last (KJM).

Blackburnian Warbler: From 1–2 on 1 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* were first (Eliza Willis, JTi, Jonah Alderson, TW). The high of 6 was 17 May at Lime Creek Nature Center *Cerro Gordo* (KJM). One on 31 May at Ledges SP *Boone* was last (KJ).



Yellow Warbler, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 31 May 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Yellow Warbler: A bevy of widespread reports from 27 Apr marked the first. The high of 37 was 14 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (JP, BFH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Arriving in numbers several days earlier than usual, two reports from 1 May tied the record 3rd earliest: one at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (AKO-details) and one at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* (PaP-details). The high of 14 was 17 May at Lime Creek Nature Center *Cerro Gordo* (KJM). A pair on 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* were suspected breeders (SSP).

Blackpoll Warbler: Arriving in the state at Saylorville Res *Polk* for the third consecutive year, the first was 27 Apr (KVS, SCS). The high

of 10 was 15 May at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The lone report was a male on 19 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

Palm Warbler: First was 24 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, Kari Keene). The high of 45 was 6 May at ERVP *Story* (PMi, DyO). Last were 20 May with one at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi) and 2 at James Miller P *Poweshiek* (KS).

Pine Warbler: One on 6 Apr at Loras College *Dubuque* was first (DAS). Reported in eight counties, 2 on 15 Apr at Shimek SF *Van Buren* was the high (BCC-ph).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: One on 9 Mar at Ice Cave Hill P *Winne-shiek* was first (BVe-ph). The high of 125 was 6 May at ERVP *Story* (PMi, DyO).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Two on 8 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* were first (TMC, JJo). Five on 8 May at the same location was the high (KVS, SCS).



Prairie Warbler, Shimek State Forest, Lee, 13 May 2021. Photograph by Jayden Bowen, Iowa City, IA.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Ob-

served for the fifth spring in a row, all observations were at Shimek SF *Lee*. Two on 30 Apr tied the record early observation (*BCC), while 2–3 birds were reported from 7–13 May (*DyO-ph, *MHB-ph, *JBo-ph, *CRE). The high of 4 was 29 May (*TSS-ph).

Black-throated Green Warbler: One on 26 Apr in *Jackson* was first (BW). Four of the top five counts were at Hickory Hill P *Johnson*, with the best being 12 on 6 May (JKe).

Canada Warbler: One on 7 May at Lake Darling SP *Washington* became the record 2nd earliest (SFr-details). Highs of 3 were 19 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (Jessica Miller, John Malenich) and ERVP *Story* (SSP).

Wilson's Warbler: Singles in *Polk* on 3 May at Saylorville Res (JB) and Trestle Trail (KVS, SCS) were first. Highs of 6 were at ERVP *Story* on 21 May (SSP, JE), and the last were 29 May at the same location (WiC) and Shimek SF *Lee* (TSS).

Summer Tanager: Reports of singles on 27 Apr at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* were first (TJD-ph, RJT-ph, POR). Five on 29 May at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* was the high

(JG).

Scarlet Tanager: First was 28 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (SD). The high of 12 was 31 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP).

WESTERN TANAGER: One report: one on 9 May in Johnston *Polk* (*DTh).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Firsts were 26 Apr in *Black Hawk* (Kyler Blanchard) and *Appanoose* (TNJ). The high of 42 was 9 May at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* (KJM).

Blue Grosbeak: Arriving early in numbers, record 3rd-earliest reports were 28 Apr at Pike Run WA *Muscatine* (JKe-details) and Hawk-eye WA *Johnson* (JLF). Reported in 18 counties, 3 on 8 May at Forney L *Fremont* was the high (Jacob Welchans).

Indigo Bunting: One in *Marion* on 26 Apr was first (Jack Johnson). The high of 25 was 30 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (SSP).

Dickcissel: Firsts were 30 Apr with one at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (DTh) and 2 in *Lee* (BCC). The high of 43 was 12 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

COMMENT

Reports were submitted in all 99 counties, with the fewest reports coming from *Humboldt*, *Crawford*, and *Ida*, respectively. The most reports were submitted in *Johnson*, *Story*, and *Polk*, respectively. A fantastic effort was put forth by birders across the state, and a total of 312 bird species were reported from March through May.

Thank you to all those that filled out documentations on the IOU website for accidental or casual species. A number of reports that would have been amongst the earliest or latest dates for a species were not included in the report due to a lack of sufficient details (i.e., details describing a bird's appearance,

behavior, vocalizations, etc. if recordings or photos are unavailable). The IOU website has a spreadsheet with early/late dates for most species encountered in the state, so being familiar with these dates and adding appropriate details can be very helpful to field report editors.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Chris Alred	CAI	Tyler Harms	TMH	Linda Quinn	LQ
Kristin/John Anderson-		Douglas Harr	DCH	Colleen Radebaugh	CR
Bricker	KJAB	Kadynn Hatfield	KH	Kris/Craig Rash	KCR
Lily Arp	LAr	Candace Havely	CHa	Billy Reiter-Marolf	BR
Bernard Aulino	BAu	Paul Hertzfel	PH	Mark Roberts	MR
Derek Bakken	DAB	Dean Hester	DH	Paul Roisen	POR
Sharon Bauer	SBA	William/Gayla		Mark/Deb Rolfes	MDR
Nick Benson	NBe	Hickerson	WGH	Linda Rudolph	LGR
Neil Bernstein	NPB	Mary Hodak	MH	Rex Rundquist	RWR
Dick Bierman	DB	Sarah Hoepfner	SHo	Ken Saunders	KS
John Bissell	JB	James Huntington	JHu	Richard Sayles	RAS
Ian Bootsmiller	IB	Bill Huser	BFH	Tom Schilke	TSS
Jayden Bowen	JBo	Ann Johnson	AMJ	Lee A. Schoenewe	LAS
Scott Bradley	SBr	Thomas Johnson	TNJ	David Shealer	DAS
Aaron Brees	AB	Julie Johnston	JJo	Dana Siefer	DSi
Mark Brown	MHB	Karl Jungbluth	KJ	Rachel Siller	RSi
Anna Buckhardt	ABu	Matt Kenne	MCK	Paul Skrade	PDBS
Will Carlson	WiC	Jim Kettelkamp	JKe	Kelsey Smith	KSm
Brandon Caswell	BCC	Jeremy Klatt	JK	Stuart Sparkman	SCS
Adam Ciha	AC	Alex Kretzinger	AK	Tommy Stone	TGS
Diane Crookham-		Theresa Kruid	TKr	Forrest/Susa	
Johnson	DCJ	Craig Kruse	CKr	Stonedahl	FSS
Raymond Cummins	RLC	Connor Langan	CPL	Caleb Strand	CSt
Therese Cummiskey	TMC	Susan LeMaster	SL	Steve Stucker	SSt
Tucker Dangremond	TDr	Ed Lins	Eli	Ed Thelen	ET
Diane Dentlinger	DD	Tammy Loussaert	TLo	Bill Thomas	BTh
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Betty Lucas	BVL	Dennis Thompson	DTh
Tom Dougherty	TJD	Sam Manning	SM	R. J. Thompson	RJT
Seth Dudley	SD	James McCoy	JMc	Jamie Tigges	JTi
Dave Eastman	DGE	Jason McCurdy	JDM	Bill Tollefson	BT
Chris Edwards	CRE	Joseph McGovern	JoMc	Rob Towler	RTo
Jesse Ellis	JE	Kelly J. McKay	KJM	Wendy VanDeWalle	WV
Tom Ellsworth	TE	Arthur Mercado	AM	Robert Van Ersvelde	RVE
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Peter Miller	PMi	Kendall Van Zanten	KVZ
Katrina Fernald	KF	Cathy Mittelberg	CMi	Bruce Ventura	BVe
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Tony Moline	TM	Karen	
Curt Fisher	CuF	Noah Nei	NoN	Viste-Sparkman	KVS
Pip Fisher	PF	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV
Karl Fliris	KF	Eric Ollie	EEO	Bob Walton	BW
James Forde	JF	Alan/Karen Orr	AKO	Torin Waters	TW
Sylvia Fredericks	SFr	Dylan Osterhaus	DyO	Victor Webber	VW
Steven Freed	SMF	Shane Patterson	SSP	Mark Welford	MWw
James L. Fuller	JLF	Paul Pearson	PaP	Matt Wetrich	MTW
Jordan Giese	JoG	Linda Petersen	LiP	Gerald White	GDW
Jay Gilliam	JG	Kevin Powers	KP	Clayton Will	CW
Rita Goranson	RGo	Jerry Probst	JP	Randall Williams	RaW
Leonard Graf	LeG	Mark Proescholdt	MP	Hank Zaletel	HZ
Ulrike Grimaldi	UDG	Scott Puchalski	SPu		

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Report of the Records Committee for 2020

Paul Hertzel

No new species were added to Iowa's checklist in 2020, so the total remains at 430. The last species added was Heermann's Gull in 2019.

Although no species were added to the checklist, it did acquire a few technical changes in 2020 through actions of the American Ornithological Society (AOS). Taxonomical re-orderings involving Galliformes (upland game birds), Gruiformes (rails and cranes), and Suliformes (frigatebirds, boobies, cormorants) were published in the 61st Supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds (Chesser 2020).

At the annual meeting of the Records Committee, held virtually by Zoom on 8 November 2020, members discussed three species which no longer meet the criteria for their status. As a result, Snowy Plover was reclassified *Accidental* since it has only been recorded in 2 of the last 10 years. Although Ferruginous Hawk has failed to maintain its *Regular* status since it has only been recorded in 6 of the last 10 years, the committee agreed to keep that status with documentation requested for sightings away from the Loess Hills. Also, Lazuli Bunting was allowed to remain *Regular* in spite of it being recorded in only 6 of the last 10 years.

2020 RECORDS

A total of 76 records were reviewed by the Committee in 2020 with 63 of these records accepted and 13 not accepted. The Committee appreciates the efforts of those who document Iowa's bird life and regards each record as deserving thoughtful, careful treatment in its review.

Each record reviewed is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = written documentation only) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or more than 5 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R reflect the majority's opinion and indicate that physical evidence supports the identification. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited, or a photo of the bird itself. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details.

2020 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*): An adult was photographed at Lake Manawa

Pottawattamie 12 June (2020-29, A-P 7-0, *IBL* 90:177, 185); the second breeding record for the state was confirmed when 2 adults accompa-

nied by 7 ducklings were found and photographed at the Grand Mound Sewage Ponds *Clinton* 7–14 October (2020-51, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:13, McCoy 2021); a single adult was present at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 31 October (2020-52, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:13).

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*): One was photographed on sheetwater near Bartlett *Fremont* and Mills on 6 June (2020-27, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:177); another was present at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 27 July–2 August (2020-34, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:177).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): An immature in waters off the Saylorville Reservoir dam *Polk* on 16 October is the 10th accepted record for Iowa (2020-53 **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:15).



Barrow's Goldeneye, Slater wastewater treatment ponds, Story, 15 December 2020. Photograph by Aaron Brees, Polk City, IA.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*): A female was found and photographed at the Slater wastewater treatment ponds *Story* 15–20 December. Of the 16 accepted records in Iowa, this is the first female (2020-67, **A-P**, 7-0, *IBL* 91:62, 66).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): An adult male was photographed visiting a rural feeder near Rippey *Greene* 30 July–3 Au-

gust, and may have been the same bird recorded below (2020-21G) as a *Selasphorus* species (2020-35, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:179, cover 90[4], *IBL* 91:18, 25).

***Selasphorus* species**: A bird visiting a feeder near Perry *Greene* on 19 May was judged to belong to the *Selasphorus* genus, but could not be identified positively to the species level (2020-21G, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:131).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*): Up to 3 individuals were present at the north end of Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* 27 June–9 July (2020-32, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:180, Dinsmore 2020b).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): A male in alternate plumage that was found on a 2nd-earliest date of 11 April at Hawkeye Wildlife Area *Johnson* stayed through 16 April. (2020-07, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:132, 138, 152, 153).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): At least one, and possibly two juveniles were present at the west end of Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* on 5, 17 September. (2020-64, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:19, 25).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*): An adult in transition allowed up-close photos at Eagle Lake *Hancock* on 7 June (2020-28, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:182, 186, Dinsmore 2020c); an adult in basic plumage was seen from a variety of vantage points at the southeast end of Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 31 October–7 November (2020-56, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*): It was an interesting year for this species with 5 recorded during the fall season. A juvenile was at Union

Slough NWR *Kossuth* 30 August–2 September (2020-40, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21); another juvenile was at Little Swan Lake *Dickinson* 6–8 September (2020-41, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21); an adult was present at Scales Point of the Coralville Reservoir *Johnson* 19–27 September (2020-45, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21); a 2nd-cycle individual was photographed 2 October at Sugar Bottom Wildlife Area of Coralville Reservoir *Johnson* (2020-46, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21); another 2nd-cycle individual was at Pool 15 of the Mississippi River *Scott* on 11 October (2020-47, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:21).



Little Gull, Union Slough NWR, Kossuth, 31 August 2020. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): An adult was at the Keokuk waterfront *Lee* on 9 June (2020-39, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:182); another adult was at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 20 December (2020-70, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:62, 68, 86, 97).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): A juvenile was at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* 1–5 January (2020-01, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:79); an adult was photographed at Little Storm Lake *Buena Vista* on 22 March (2020-06, **A-P** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 90:134); another juvenile at Deere

Dike *Dubuque* was record late on 23, 24 May (2020-22, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:134); a third juvenile was found at Lock & Dam 15 *Scott* on 28 October (2020-55, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:22).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): A subadult was present at Big Creek Lake *Polk* 14, 15 December. This is Iowa's 7th record for this species (2020-66, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:62, 68).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): A juvenile was at Wicki-up Hill *Linn* 21–25 August (2020-37, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:23).

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): Iowa's 2nd record was a juvenile found and photographed at Hawkeye Wildlife Area *Johnson* 8–10 August. The previous record was also in Johnson County, just downstream at Coralville Reservoir in 1995 (2020-63, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:24, *Johnson* 2021).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): One was feeding alongside a White-faced Ibis on 14, 15 April at Brower Lake *Woodbury* (2020-09, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135); another was at Dunbar Slough *Greene* 17–23 April (2020-10, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135, 156); at least 3 were present in a group of 19 *Plegadis* birds at Trumbull Lake *Clay* found on 19 April and persisting through 5 May (2020-11, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135); one was in with a small group of White-faced Ibis at Kiowa Marsh *Sac* on 26 April (2020-12, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135); at least one adult was in a mixed group of 6 at Hawkeye Wildlife Area *Johnson* on 7 May (2020-19, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135); an adult in the company of two White-faced Ibis was at Ada Hayden Park *Story* 24 May (2020-

23, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:135).

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*): A subadult bird at Hawkeye Wildlife Area *Johnson* 4–18 August was Iowa's 6th record. (2020-36, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:24, Brown 2021).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): One was found attending a burrow in an *Ida* agricultural field on 1 May (2020-26, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:136, 139).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*): A dark juvenile was photographed at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* on 27 November (2020-65, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:30).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*): Two calling birds were present at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 4–31 May (2020-16, **A-R** 7-0, *IBL* 90:142); a single individual was seen at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 13 June–1 July (2020-30, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:191); a calling bird was recorded as it flew over *Polk City Polk* 26 June (2020-31, **A-R** 7-0, *IBL* 90:191); at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk*, another single bird 30 August–6 September was recorded calling (2020-42, **A-R** 5-2, 7-0, *IBL* 91:32).

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*): A soaring bird was spotted over Palisades Park *Winneshiek* 28 September (2020-48, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:32).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*): Iowa's 4th record and first since 1985 was found at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 4 May, and stayed one more day (2020-17, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:144, cover 90[3], Dinsmore 2020a).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*): A male was found 5 Jan-

uary associating with a small group of Eastern Bluebirds near the Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie*. (2020-02, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:84).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): A male was photographed in Independence *Buchanan* where it was present 9–14 January (2020-03, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:89); another male was near New Hartford *Black Hawk* 29 December–1 February (2020-04, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:89); a third male was photographed near Cardinal Marsh *Winneshiek* in a yard it made use of for about two months starting on 26 December (2020-71 **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:62, 74).



Evening Grosbeaks, Port Louisa NWR, Louisa, 30 October 2020. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): A small, mixed group was at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 30 Oct (2020-62, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:33); a juvenile visited a feeder near Hartman Preserve *Black Hawk* 1 November (2020-57, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:33); an adult male spent a couple of days at a Burlington *Des Moines* feeder 1, 2 November (2020-58, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:33); another adult male was at a Mason City *Cerro Gordo* feeder 9, 10 November (2020-59, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:33); a third male made a brief stop at a

feeder in North Liberty *Johnson* 17 November (2020-60, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:33).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*): Iowa's 2nd record was a male found visiting a backyard feeder in Burlington *Des Moines* 22 November (2020-61, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:27, 34, Fuller 2021).

Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*): At least 2 territorial males were present at the Croton West Unit of Shimek State Forest *Lee* beginning on 1 May (2020-14, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:149);

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): An adult male was at Bacon Creek Park *Woodbury* on 28 April (2020-25, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:149); a female was found at the Saylorville Reservoir Visitor Center *Polk* 7 May (2020-18, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 90:149); another adult male was at a feeder in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 5–12 May (2020-20, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:149-150); another female was in a Johnston yard *Polk* 6 September (2020-43, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:38).

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*): A male was visiting a yard in Yale *Guthrie* on 28 April (2020-13, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:150).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): A green, first-year male was well-photographed in Iowa City *Johnson* 2, 3 May (2020-15, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:150).

RECORDS FROM THE PAST ACCEPTED

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): A bird trapped in a building in *Woodbury* was captured and released on 6 October 1982 (2020-AA, **A-D** 7-0, *Bill Huser).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): A single bird was found 17 April 1988 near Stone State Park north of Sioux City *Plymouth* (2020-AB, **A-D** 7-0, *Bill Huser).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): A juvenile was reported along the Des Moines River near the Cottonwood Recreation Area *Polk* on 23 March 2006 (2020-AC, **A-D** 6-1, 6-1, *Steven Summers).

Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*): An adult female was present at Bacon Creek Park *Woodbury* 30 May 2008 (2020-AD, **A-D** 6-1, 7-0, *Bill Huser).

2020 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): An individual photographed in Washington County was a potential first record for Iowa. However, the photograph suggests a shorter than expected bill and a notched tail, both typical of Ruby-throated Hummingbird and inconsistent with Black-chinned Hummingbird (2020-24, **NA** 0-7).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): With no photo, the written description did not eliminate the possibility of Allen's Hummingbird. The committee agreed to conduct a second review at the genus level. See record #2020-21G (2020-21, **NA** 4-3, 1-6).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): Five photos taken at long range were suggestive of a female Ruff, but most reviewers felt they were not definitive (2020-33, **NA** 2-5).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): A Christmas Bird Count report from 19 December received a split first round

vote from the committee. After discussion, two members continued to maintain the description was not complete enough to overcome their doubt regarding a December Osprey in Iowa (2020-68, NA 4-3, 5-2).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*): Nearly all reviewers felt the description of a Christmas Bird Count report from mid-December left room for the much more likely Red-shouldered Hawk (2020-69, NA 0-7).

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*): Six of seven reviewers felt the description lacked enough detail to confirm the identification (2020-50, NA 1-6).

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*): Two individuals along Walnut Creek Trail Polk in October were identified correctly, but the species is not yet on the state list as naturally occurring. So, votes to not accept the record pertain to uncertainty regarding the origin of the birds (2020-54, NA 1-6).

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*): A photo of an individual belonging to the *P. c. obscurus* subspecies from the far west, a notoriously sedentary population, generated doubt about the natural arrival of such a bird (2020-49, NA 6-1, 0-7).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*): Most reviewers agreed this was a case of a mistaken identification (2020-38, NA 1-6).

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): Although the description seemed good for this species, it is not yet on the state list as naturally occurring. So, votes to not accept the record pertain to uncertainty regarding the origin of the bird (2020-05, NA 2-5).

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): Although photos clearly show the identification is correct, this species is not yet on the state list as naturally occurring. So, votes to not accept the record pertain to uncertainty regarding the origin of the birds (2020-08, NA 2-5).

McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*): A brief, written description of a potential first-state record was not detailed enough to accept (2020-44, NA 0-7). The name for this species was changed in August 2020 by the AOS to Thick-billed Longspur.

RECORD FROM THE PAST NOT ACCEPTED

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): Most reviewers agreed the photo shows a Common Loon (2020-AE, NA 1-6).

The recording and preserving of the Iowa ornithological record takes the critical actions of people such as the 60 who provided documentations for the records contained in this report. Listed along with the number of documentations submitted in 2020, they are: Stephen J. Dinsmore 12, Clayton Will 12, Aaron Brees 10, Wendy VanDeWalle 9, Brandon Caswell 6, John Bissell 5, Mark Brown 4, James Forde 4, Tyler Harms 4, Bill Huser 4, Paul Roisen 4, Chris Edwards 3, Paul Skrade 3, Thomas Dougherty 2, Jim Kettelkamp 2,

Tony Moline 2, Dylan Osterhaus 2, Colleen Radebaugh 2, David Shealer 2, Dana Siefer 2, Dennis Thompson 2, Mark Welford 2, Noah Arthur 1, Ellen Bell 1, Fawn Bowden 1, Jason Bowen 1, Benjamin Carlson 1, Chuck Creecy 1, Ray Cummins 1, Sarah Dawson 1, Seth Dudley 1, Carolyn Fischer 1, Steven Freed 1, James Fuller 1, Rita Goranson 1, Mike Grochal 1, Doug Harr 1, Dean Hester 1, Rick Hollis 1, Ann Johnson 1, Matthew Kaye 1, Matt Kenne 1, Bret Lang 1, Connor Langan 1, James McCoy 1, Jason McCurdy 1, Bruce Plakke 1, Don Poggensee 1, Jerry Probst 1, Brian Roberts 1, Linda Rudolf 1, Lee Schoenewe 1, Steven Summers 1, Rob Towler 1, Karla Uhler 1, Bruce Ventura 1, Karen Viste-Sparkman 1, Victor Webber 1, Gerald White 1, Bobby Wilcox 1. The Committee sincerely appreciates the efforts of these people in helping discover, preserve and publish the record of Iowa's bird life.

Committee members for 2020 with years in which their terms expire were: Karen Viste-Sparkman (2020), Paul Skrade (2021), Mark Brown (2022), Doug Harr (2023), Lee Schoenewe (2024), John Bissell (2025), and Paul Hertzell (secretary, appointed by the committee). Francis Moore was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2020 and replacing Karen Viste-Sparkman whose term expired at the end of the year.

Many thanks to Francis Moore and Karen Viste-Sparkman for reviewing this article and making suggestions.

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Book Review: *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior*

Rick Hollis

Peterson *Bird Behavior*



John Kricher



Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior (*Peterson Reference Guides*) by John Kricher. 2020. 360 pages. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston and New York. ISBN 978-1328787361. \$35.00 (Hardcover).

John Kricher is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, MA and has served on many national organizations. Kricher wrote *A Neotropical Companion*, now *A New Neotropical Companion*, which is one of my favorite books. It is a wonderful book that anyone going to the tropics should read.

Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior is one of nine Peterson Reference Guides. All but one of them is about birds. Perhaps half of the book is color photographs, most of which are by the author.

All the photos are very nice, but unless the bird is doing something, do not add much to the book. Most readers will already own a field guide, probably more than one, and can look up different plumages in the field guide. The book is printed in 10 point font with serifs. I wish the text was larger.

Throughout this informative book I learned many things, but often wished for more. There are so many things that I did not know that Kricher packs in. But I wanted much more about what a bird's actions mean to other birds.

Part of my problem has to do with two somewhat different meanings of behavior. The Oxford Dictionary give as Meaning One: the way in which an animal or person acts in response to a particular situation or stimulus." These are things that you can observe. Meaning Two is "the way in which a natural phenomenon or a machine works or functions." This involves the inner workings of the bird, and is much less observable to a person with binoculars.

Kricher would seem to think of behavior in both ways. When I set out to review this book I had in my mind something like older books such as *Stokes Guide to Bird Behavior, Volume 1* by Donald Stokes or *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* by David Allen Sibley, or newer books like *The Bird Way* by Jennifer Ackerman or *What It's Like to Be a Bird* by David Allen Sibley. *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior* was very different. A great deal of it is about what I think of as bird biology. As a biologist, I understand

that much of behavior is set up by biology; however, a great deal of behavior can be explained with little reference to biology. My preference would have been for explaining that if you see a bird doing this, here is why it is doing it. This is what it means to its mate or others of the same species. Don't get me wrong, how the bird machine functions is important. This may not be an issue for other people.

The book starts with an introduction and two short chapters which presented lots of interesting facts about birds. Next are chapters titled *On Being a Bird: Anatomy and Physiology*; *A Perspective on Bird Behavior*; *A Bird's Brain and Senses*; *Understanding Bird Diversity*; *The Annual Cycle of Birds*; and *Feathers and Flight*. In my mind these are not so much about behavior as bird anatomy and physiology. Kricher tells readers "you may want to have a tasty rotisserie chicken handy. You can enjoy dining on it and see many of the skeletal and muscular characteristics discussed below." I am certain that this is the only book where I have encountered that suggestion. These early chapters have a lot of general bird biology.

Readers may find the references section at the end of the book especially useful. There is more than a page of general references, along with specific references for each chapter. Some chapters have 3 pages of references. Kricher does not just list references, he comments on many. One reference concludes, "This is a highly lucid explanation of a topic that birders have often found confusing. Strongly recommended." Another reference concludes with, "Documents the richness of the thrasher repertoire. Amazing." I found these very helpful and wished more books had detailed chapter references.

In between are eight chapters on a range of topics. Although there is much useful information to be learned elsewhere in this volume, these 198 pages are the meat of the book. Much of this touches on behavior. The ~3 pages that discuss climate change and how birds respond to it were fascinating. It was interesting to learn how some species can respond to climate change, while others do not. One example from common breeding swallows in Iowa: Tree Swallows are returning a week or more earlier in many places. Barn Swallows are not. Barn Swallows winter in the Amazon and have no way of judging climate change. Barn Swallow arrival calendars have changed little. Tree Swallows winter closer and can experience climate changing and respond by arriving earlier.

The last four chapters are probably the best in the book. This is the place where most behavior (Meaning One) is discussed.

Bird song fascinates me, partly because there are so many aspects to it. In *Song and its Variation*, there is mention of song type switching by males, song matching (dueling banjos) by multiple males, persistent singing, like the single Red-eyed Vireo that sang 22,197 times in 10 hours. Dawn chorus deserves several paragraphs. There are also sections on regional dialects, mimicry, whispered song, female birdsong (seven paragraphs), duetting, and birdsong and urban noise. There is little discussion about which birds have evolved to do these things and why. I would have liked more.

There are many fascinating items in *Real Estate*, *Mate Attraction*, and *Pair Bonding*. A photo of a female cardinal soliciting copulation is especially interesting; it is something that is not often seen. The two birds are perched on what appears to be a crossbar on a feeder. I would want to see more of this kind of picture.

Nesting Behavior covers many topics: functions, construction, and failure, before going on to eggs and a brief discussion of precocial and altricial young. A nice description of extra-pair fertilization is followed by feeding and sanitation. The chapter closes with a section on brood parasitism.

All the different ways birds migrate and the factors that could influence migration are covered in *Migratory Behavior*. Migration has costs. Tracking migration and the differences between long and short distance migration are discussed. Kricher points out that differential migration occurs in many species. In juncos, females and young migrate earlier and further than males. If you keep track of the juncos under your feeders, you can notice a difference over the season.

Kricher reminds us that the birds we watch are birds who are small creatures and whose lives are short. They sense things differently than we do, which makes our interpretation of their actions difficult. I am very glad I read the book. It will remain in an easy to reach place on my shelf and I am sure I will pull it down often for reference.

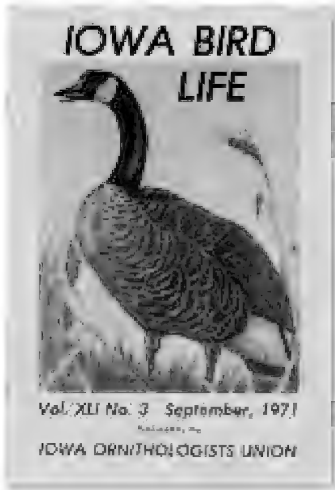
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Ring-necked Pheasants, Jersey Avenue, Van Buren, 8 April 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The lead article in the September 1971 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* describes a study of homing behavior of nesting American Robins. The author, Dean Roosa, studied the return rate of 53 releases of adult robins that were taken from their nests in Goldfield, Iowa and released at varying distances and directions from the nest during 1963 and 1964. Overall, about 53% of the robins returned to their nest with no differences in the return rates of male and female robins (more males were tested). The longest return was from 40 miles, but none returned from 50 miles, the greatest distance tested.

The fall IOU meeting was held at Savanna, Illinois near Clinton, Iowa. The total attendance was 154 with 96 from Illinois and 58 from Iowa.

The Sunday field trips, limited somewhat by rain, found 100 bird species and five more were found on Sunday. The Saturday program consisted of several talks on the potential impacts of a nuclear power plant near Clinton.

The idea of the IOU holding a foray was discussed at the meeting and was described more in an article by Peter Petersen. A foray is a short-term biological survey of an area in which the attendees attempt to find and identify as many different plant and animal species as they can within a specified area. It is not limited to birds and presumably would depend on who attends and what species groups they can identify. The IOU eventually participated in several forays in the late 1970s and the results were published in *Iowa Bird Life* (e.g., Fremont County, IBL 47:119–140, 48:3–24, 49:47–52 and Allamakee County, IBL 49:71–77).

An article by John Faaborg described birding areas in the Jefferson/Greene County area. Two areas that received the most coverage were Goose Lake near Jefferson and Dunbar Slough near Scranton. Numerous other smaller areas are described along with a map of the region.

The Field Reports included a report of two adult and two juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Des Moines, a Parasitic Jaeger at Sweet Marsh in June, and nesting Chuck-will's-widows at two sites near Ottumwa. A short note describes a Little Blue Heron seen in April near Wexford in northeastern Iowa.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

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Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Swainson's Warbler, East River Valley Park, *Story*, 20 May 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Palm Warbler, James Miller Park, *Poweshiek*, 10 May 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

GRAPHICS: Paul Hertz, Mason City, IA.

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CONTENTS

Iowa's First Swainson's Warbler Record by <i>Eric Ollie and Shane Patterson</i>	101
Meet Two Iowa Birders: Rex and Maria Rundquist by <i>Stuart Sparkman</i>	104
Field Reports—Spring 2021 by <i>Connor Patrick Langan</i>	106
Report of the Records Committee for 2020 by <i>Paul Hertzel</i>	138
Book Review: <i>Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior</i> by <i>Rick Hollis</i>	145
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> by <i>James J. Dinsmore</i>	148

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Fall 2021 • Volume 91 • Number 4



IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Letter from the Editor

Karen Viste-Sparkman

Over the past four years, it has been my pleasure to produce twenty issues as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. When I began I'm not sure I knew what I was in for. At first it seemed overwhelming, but the job grew easier as I asked for help and many people stepped forward to assist. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is ostensibly an organization about birds, but through the experience of editing *IBL* I became increasingly aware of how much it is really about people. I am indebted to all who have helped make the publishing of *IBL* possible during my tenure. I transitioned in four new field reports editors (Brandon Caswell, Connor Langan, Dean Hester, and Paul Skrade) to replace outgoing editors for three seasons (Paul Hertzell, Tyler Harms, and Jim Dinsmore), while Francis Moore has been reliably editing the winter field reports for more than ten years now. I appreciate the diligent efforts of all these hard-working people who have provided the mainstay of each issue. Ann Johnson continues to enhance the work flow for field reports, and Tyler Harms provides data editing skills. Steve Dinsmore has improved field reports with his careful scrutiny for accuracy. I recruited the assistance of a photo editor, Larry Dau, and a book review coordinator, Rick Hollis. Other regular contributors have included Jim Dinsmore (Fifty Years Ago and the annual index), Chris Caster (Christmas Bird Count reports), Jerry Toll (Hitchcock raptor banding reports), Stuart Sparkman (Meet an Iowa Birder), Rick Hollis (book reviews), and IOU secretaries Rex Rundquist, Sharon Bauer, and Katie Byerly. The Publications Committee, consisting of chair Ann Johnson, as well as Kay Niyo, John Bissell, and Brian Peer, have provided assistance including Ann and Kay taking the lead on editing four issues to get the journal caught up after a year without an editor. Many IOU members provided content in the form of articles and photos, and several anonymous reviewers helped improve scientific articles. My profound thanks for all of your help.

I have learned much during my tenure as editor. Reading articles more carefully and critically than I would have as a consumer of the journal has taught me even more about Iowa's birds. I learned more than I ever thought I needed to know about editing and publishing. Most importantly I have learned about Iowa's birders. The past two years have been challenging for us all as we navigate a global pandemic and increasingly polarized politics. Birding has provided solace and respite from these collective concerns, and is gaining a growing following. Through this all I appreciate the IOU community for continuing to share information and providing a connection with each other through our common appreciation of Iowa's birds.

It has been my great honor to serve as the editor of *IBL*. I am now happy to turn the reins over to a new editor.

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Iowa's First Successful Nesting Record of Black-necked Stilt at Hawkeye WMA, Johnson County

Brandon Caswell



Figure 1. Black-necked Stilt family (adult female, adult male, and 3 juveniles), Hawkeye WMA, Johnson, 23 August 2021. Photograph by Jim Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Black-necked Stilt, once accidental in Iowa, has become one of the state's "rare, but regular" avifauna. In the last few decades the species has rapidly expanded both northward into the Great Plains and eastward along the Mississippi River Valley (Robinson et al. 2020). Nesting records now exist into Canada and well east of the Mississippi. Interestingly, a record early sighting was on 20 March 2021 at Bank Swallow Bend in Warren County and a record late sighting was on 17 October

2021 at Union Slough NWR in Kossuth County. That leaves 2021 with the longest period of sightings in a year for the species.

On 7 August 2013 a serendipitous event led me to find the state's first breeding record for the species (Caswell and Dinsmore 2014). Although unpublished in the literature, a stilt was confirmed on a nest in 2015 at Green Island Wildlife Management Area. These birds were first recorded on 19 May with a total of 10 counted the next day. Subsequent observers noted copulation up until David Shealer's spotting of the nest on 11 June (Shealer 2015). I visited the location 12 June and photographed a single stilt on a nest with two other individuals close by (Caswell 2015). Iowa's next confirmed nesting attempt was at Saylorville Reservoir on 18 July 2020 (Dinsmore 2020).

Here is a timeline of Iowa's fourth confirmed nesting attempt for Black-necked Stilt. This was the first attempt where chicks survived to a juvenile stage of development and presumably left with the parents.

TIMELINE

29–30 May 2021: Multiple pairs of stilts were distant from the DNR headquarters and multiple nesting attempts seemed possible.

2 June: Only one pair remained.

10 June: Mating by this pair was observed by Jim Forde.

13 June to 13 July: This period had eight stilt appearances, of which seven were just a single bird. Forde and others suspected one stilt was on a nest most of the time. Being distant, the sexes could never be identified. Their territory was evident about 1.5 km south-southwest of DNR headquarters parking lot

along Amana Road NW. It is believed this was the nesting spot or at least the general area.

19 June: Pair was first seen east of probable nesting site wading and preening. At one point I saw the pair suddenly get up and valiantly defended probable nest from a passing American Crow, eventually returning back to the nest area. One adult stayed at the spot and walked around it while the other flew about 0.5 km east to another small inlet, where it usually could be found.

8 July: Linda Quinn reported an encounter from a kayak with adults circling over kayak, calling loudly. After a few minutes they settled onto their pond area. One adult constantly stayed at one end while the other chased off Killdeer. She took an audio recording, which is on eBird (Quinn 2021).

17 July: Both adults were seen harassing an eagle flying over their territory. Other shorebirds were regularly being driven off on this date.

18 July: Forde saw four young in their “private pond”, soon to dry up as drought conditions continued. Another eagle was intercepted by the parents along Highway 965, about 2.5 km east of the nest area.

25, 27 July: Observers had the best looks at all six of the family as they were forced to the distant shoreline after their pond dried up.

29 July: Jamie McCoy posted photos on eBird (McCoy 2021) of the stilt family taken from a kayak.

5 Aug: Forde saw three flying stilts, probably an adult and 2 young, indicating the young had fledged. Forde later saw only five (together) and later a single. By the 7th the water level had been raised for teal season, forcing the stilt family to leave their territory. This departure may have led to one fatality of the young.

13 Aug: Four stilts were visible at Greencastle Ave, just over 3 km west of the nest area. The male was in the presence of the remaining three young.

18 Aug: Female reunited with the family at Greencastle Ave, but never associated with the young. The pair watched the young feeding 150 m away when an eagle landed. They immediately flew to the young, but never harassed the eagle. The parents were now less aggressive towards other birds.

23 Aug: Family was last seen by Forde at Greencastle Ave (Figure 1). Storms led to the rising level of water everywhere.

EGG-LAYING CALCULATION

Juvenile Black-necked Stilts are capable of flight at about 27–31 days after hatching. The incubation period is about 21–27 days (Robinson et al. 2020). If the young were flying by 5 August, then that would put hatching at around 5–9 July. Using the known incubation period, the range of egg-laying would have been 8 June at the earliest to 18 June at the latest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank Jim Forde for the information he provided about the stilt family. This was instrumental in making the timeline and egg-laying calculation. I would also like to thank Jamie McCoy and Linda Quinn, who took the time to observe and document the stilts from kayak.

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Mighty Maskunky Marsh and the Visiting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons

Diane Crookham-Johnson

New York City?!? It had become habit to look at license plates as frequently as I looked at birds. On this day the car's license plate identified New York City. Upon greeting the driver, I learned he was indeed from New York City. He usually birded at Central Park. On this day, he was visiting family in southeast Iowa. A quick review of eBird told him something exciting was happening at Maskunky Marsh (Maskunky), Mahaska County, Iowa. So off to Maskunky he went to see what all the activity was.

This New York birder was added to a list of birders from 35 Iowa counties and 3 additional states—Missouri, Illinois (including Chicago), and Nebraska—who visited Maskunky during the summer of 2021. This list is in no way complete, but is instead the birders I came in contact with in person or through social media over the summer.

The first documented sighting of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Maskunky during 2021 was 24 June. The species had stopped by Maskunky for a day or two in past years. So this visit, although earlier than usual, was not a complete surprise. What came as a surprise was that this Yellow-crowned Night-Heron did not leave. And within days this adult was joined by more Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Sometimes as many as 12 adults were observed at one time (Figure 1).

As word of the arrival of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons to Maskunky spread—by IOU listserv, social media, and eBird—the birders arrived, too. It was common to find several cars parked off the gravel road along the marsh. Birders shared information, swapped stories, took pictures. And the next day, the next weekend, more birders would show up to enjoy the experience again. As the days turned into weeks birders began to hope the birds had nests nearby and the marsh would soon host juvenile night-herons, too.

On 17 July 2021 the first juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared in the marsh! Juveniles (Figure 2) continued to appear daily. A maximum of four juveniles were viewed at one time at Maskunky during the summer of 2021.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests were not confirmed. However, the flight path of the adults led birders to believe that if they were nesting, the rookery had to be west of Maskunky. The adult night-herons would feed on



Figure 1. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron adult, Maskunky Marsh, Mahaska, 9 July 2021. Photograph by Diane Crookham-Johnson, Oskaloosa, IA.



Figure 2. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron juvenile, Maskunky Marsh, Mahaska, 31 July 2021. Photograph by Diane Crookham-Johnson, Oskaloosa, IA.

of the gravel road mowed so that viewing along the west side of the marsh is easy from a vehicle. Maskunky has become a habitat that is good not only for nesting and migrating birds, but also for birders who want or need to view from their automobile. I have identified more than 75 species of birds and waterfowl at the marsh over the last two years – from the smallest Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to the largest Sandhill Cranes; from the most common Red-winged Blackbirds to the more uncommon Glossy Ibis; from the inquisitive Common Yellowthroat to the always shy Sora.

Week after week the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons—adults and juveniles—continued to feed at the marsh.

The night-herons showed themselves as curious birds. Often they would hunt in the water for crawdads near the birders and the cameras. They seemed to be saying take my picture, get my best angle, did you see me do that? The apparent attitude of the birds was contagious. Birders had a tough time leaving Maskunky without a smile and a good memory.

The last, a juvenile, was spotted on 30 August 2021. As I watched it feed at Maskunky I whispered a thank you for the joy the birds provided. What a summer! What a bird!

many crawdads at the marsh and then fly to the west, presumably to feed young in nests.

After the excitement of a first juvenile YCNH on the morning of 17 July birders who stayed around were treated to another surprise later in the day. Two juvenile Little Blue Herons (Figure 3) appeared and stayed to feed at Maskunky! They were last spotted on 3 August 2021.

Maskunky Marsh is a wetland maintained by Mahaska County Conservation. The 92-acre area located along State Highway 92 and Snyder Avenue (a gravel road) is five miles east of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The entire marsh is visible from the road. A gravel parking lot sits at the northeast corner of the marsh. Area farmers keep the shoulder



Figure 3. Little Blue Heron juvenile, Maskunky Marsh, Mahaska, 19 July 2021. Photograph by Diane Crookham-Johnson, Oskaloosa, IA.

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White-winged Doves in Iowa: Records from 1997 to 2021

Douglas C. Harr

When a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) appeared in our Ogden backyard on 7 June 2021, I enjoyed much time watching it on the ground under our bird feeders, and it allowed me to get many close-up



Figure 1. White-winged Dove below yard feeders, Ogden, Boone, 7 June 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

photos (Figure 1) of this member of the Columbidae family. Our new backyard visitor was immediately identifiable, with a very defining white outer edge on its folded wings, reddish eyes surrounded by blue skin, and just a small black patch on the lower edge of each cheek. Although I had previously ob-

served this species several times in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, I'd only seen it once in Iowa, during an Iowa Ornithologists' Union 2011 spring meeting field trip in the Shenandoah area. Upon a 2018 report of one seen on a farmstead near Story City I went to search there but was not able to find it.

After this species made a first-ever appearance in our own yard, I began wondering what the status of White-winged Doves might be in Iowa today, and if they were likely to be increasing in the upper Midwest. That led me to start a search through IOU Records Committee reports and also general sightings only submitted to the organization's seasonal Field Reports. I hoped to find enough information to write an article for *Iowa Bird Life*, bringing members and readers up to date about the status of this species in Iowa and what we might expect in the future.

Before locating and reviewing records, first I found some pocket-sized, printed versions of the IOU's Iowa bird checklist in my own old paper files. The 1987 edition did not list White-winged Dove, indicating it had unlikely been seen or reported in Iowa prior to that publication.

A 2005 version of the checklist did have this dove added to the short “Casual Species” section at the end of the list. By the time a revised list was published in 2010, White-winged Doves had been placed in the regular species list with our common columbids: Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Mourning Dove.

The first Iowa report to IOU Records Committee was submitted by Nelson R. Hoskins in 1997, for a White-winged Dove observed in an Ottumwa backyard. Three more were then also reported in 1997, including one at Le Grand in Marshall County (Mark Proescholdt), one at the Riverton Wildlife Area in Fremont County (Nelson R. Hoskins), and another at Fort Dodge in Webster County (Diana Hultine). At some point after these sightings and the committee’s approved reports, White-winged Dove may have been added as an “Accidental” species to an updated version of the IOU checklist, although it has been difficult to find confirming information. No reports occurred in 1998, and only one report came to the Records Committee to be approved in 1999. Then, 18 reports were submitted between 2000 and 2008, absent only in 2003. White-winged Doves had been moved to “Casual Species” during that period and next were listed as regular, after annual reports had grown to seven in 2008.

Submitted sightings (a total of approximately 42 since 2009) now simply have been added to the seasonal Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life*. A total of 66 or more individual White-winged Dove observations have been submitted to the IOU since the first report in 1997. Some of the same birds are observed and reported by multiple IOU members and other individuals, occasionally making it difficult to determine exactly how many different doves were in certain counties. With my observation being the *first* seen in Boone County, this species now has been reported in 33 counties (Figure 2).

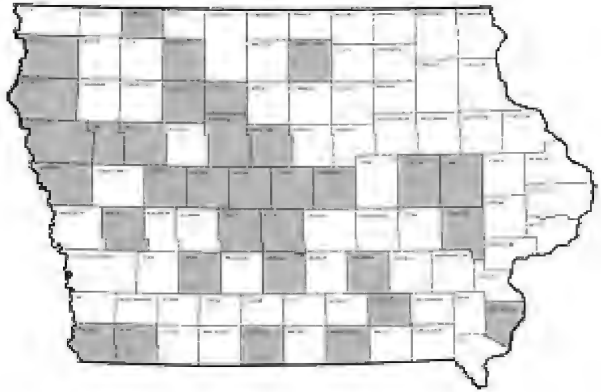


Figure 2. Counties with reports of White-winged Dove, 1997-2021. Shaded counties are those with one or more reports of White-winged Dove.

The bulk of observations come from the western half of Iowa, with those in Page County reported most often. At Shenandoah and other sites in Page County, they have been viewed in December, January, and from March through August. In all other counties, they are reported primarily from April through July. The first White-winged Doves actually nesting in Iowa were documented in Shenandoah (Dyche 2010), where they successfully raised young. The species also nested there in 2012, raising young once again.

White-winged Doves are originally a species primarily from Mexico and Central America. A western subspecies (*Zenaida asiatica mearnsii*) is a nester in southern parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas. An eastern subspecies (*Z. a. asiatica*) nests mostly in southern Florida but also along all the other Gulf Coast states, including the lower Rio Grande River area of Texas, and several Caribbean islands. Both these varieties appear to be spreading vagrants more northerly, the western type into central Great Plains states, which could explain the frequent sightings in Page County and western Iowa. Vagrants of the eastern type are even being seen in several states up the U.S. Atlantic coast. Distribution has expanded significantly during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The species has tended to concentrate especially upon urban areas, due to fossil-fuel heating, radiation of solar energy from asphalt and concrete, and an increase in backyard bird feeding (Schwertner et al. 2020). Climate change is also suspected to be a likely reason for us to see more outer range expansion (Elmer 2020).

Several online sources indicate that the current continental population is not well known. However, USGS Breeding Bird Surveys show increases from 12% in 1971 to 41% by 2007 in the southern half of the United States (Butcher et al 2014). With an increasing population trend estimated at 19 million mature individuals (BirdLife International 2016), White-winged Doves are likely to be found in Iowa even more often in the future and will make a good target bird for adding to one's Iowa life list. The eBird app or website often will depict where they have most recently been observed.

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Field Reports—Summer 2021

Paul Skrade

WEATHER

The summer of 2021 was warmer and drier than average with the mean temperature for both June and July surprisingly at 73.4°F. This is 3.5°F above normal for June but right around the 30-year average for July. Precipitation totals were lower than normal in both months with a total of 3.26 inches (or 2.00 inches below the mean) for June and 3.99 inches (or 0.18 inches below the mean) for July. A warmer June last occurred in 1991, while a drier June last occurred in 2012. July 2020 was warmer and drier, and both 2018 and 2016 were colder and wetter (respectively) than 2021.

Early to mid-June saw very high temperatures with daytime highs in the upper 80s and 90s, even with some triple-digit days, but the precipitation in the second half of the month helped to lower temps back closer to normal. The high temp for the month was recorded in *Harrison* with 104°F on the 17th and the low for the month was 40°F on the 22nd, recorded at *Benton*, *Clayton*, and *Emmet*. Most of the weather stations in the state reported lower than normal levels of precipitation with some counties like *Polk* and *Black Hawk* having deficits of 3–4 inches.

The middle of June brought thunderstorms in northwest and northern Iowa with some of these severe. Pea- to golf ball-sized hail was reported from some storms and 2.50-inch diameter hail was reported near Red Rock Reservoir *Marion*. Straight-line winds flattened corn and defoliated soybeans in many places, which surely affected breeding bird habitat as well. Some of these brought with them heavy rain but many parts of the state were still experiencing lower than average precipitation. Later, some cold fronts brought rainstorms with heavy precipitation to the northeast part of the state, with many stations recording over an inch. The last third of the month brought heavy rain to much of the state with a station in *Wapello* reporting over 7 inches in one rain event. However, several of the weather events were very localized, producing much variability across the state with *Dickinson* only recording 0.84 inches of precipitation for the month and a station in *Allamakee* reporting 12.96, and so by the end of June many areas were experiencing drought conditions.

Variability seems to be the norm from now on, with the first half of July experiencing cooler than average temperatures and the second half producing sweltering temps, but overall right on the long-term average. The low temperature for the month was 48°F on the 8th at *Emmet* and the high was from the county adjacent to the southwest in *Clay* at 99°F on the 28th. Widespread rain in July meant more



Paul Skrade

normal precipitation levels than June with southern and western thirds of the state actually experiencing above normal amounts. However, the northeast part of the state observed deficits of about an inch, as shown in the statewide extremes: a station in *Linn* only received 0.70 inches for the month while a gauge at Chariton in *Lucas* received 12.90 inches.

There were two days of impactful severe weather in July with a severe thunderstorm in central Iowa on the 9th and a broad area of thunderstorms on the 14th. This event produced tornadoes from *Sac* to *Jones* that caused property damage but thankfully no injuries or fatalities. There were estimated to be 26 tornadoes from that weather event, the third highest count since 1980.

HABITAT and GENERAL TRENDS

The derecho of August 2020 impacted forest habitat for breeding birds along the highway 30 corridor in central and east-central Iowa. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources estimated that over 7 million trees were damaged or downed, which greatly shaped the landscape for forest birds returning to Iowa this spring to breed. Threats to Iowa's forest habitat are nothing new, with the amount of forest and its composition fluctuating dramatically since European settlement. Reduced from ~6.7 million acres in 1850 to an estimated low of 1.5 million acres in 1974, it is back up to ~3 million acres, it has also shifted from predominantly oak savanna and upland and bottomland hardwood forests to an expansion of eastern red cedar in former grasslands and proliferation of maple and basswood due to changes in the disturbance regime. However, there are additional threats from the expansion of non-native insects like the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), which is currently making its way across Iowa, and European spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), detected in the state but so far held at bay.

Breeding waterfowl numbers appeared good with late summer flocks of Canada Geese numbering in the hundreds, and broods of Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Hooded Mergansers reported from around the state. Gallinaceous birds also were well-represented with numerous Ring-necked Pheasant broods and Northern Bobwhite coveys reported. However, many species were reported from fewer counties than in recent years. Black-billed Cuckoo, for example, was reported from 15 counties this year, down from 25 in 2020 and Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported in eight counties in 2020, but only three in 2021. Some of this is certainly due to effort and reporting but also could be attributed to the more secretive behavior of these species.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Only three review list species were included in this report with (at least) one King Rail found in *Allamakee* at the end of July, the continued central Iowa Fish Crows, along with an additional accepted record from *Muscatine*, and some well-documented Little Blue Herons in *Mahaska* for much of July. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck moved from Casual to Regular status as reports

continue to expand this species' range across the state. Greater Prairie-Chickens were only reported near the reintroduction area in *Ringgold*. Some of the other unusual species included a Red-breasted Merganser, White-winged Dove, multiple reports of White-throated Sparrows, and a July Yellow-rumped Warbler.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS – Casual or Accidental species. * – documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** – adult, **AHHP** – Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **BBS** – breeding bird survey, **BCA** – bird conservation area, **CP** – county park, **Croton** – Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, **Donnellson** – Donnellson Unit, Shimek State Forest, **ERVP** – East River Valley Park, **Farmington** – Farmington Unit, Shimek State Forest, **imm** – immature, **juv** – juvenile, **L** – lake, **Lick Creek** – Lick Creek Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Lucas** – Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest, **M** – marsh, **m.ob.** – many observers, **NC** – nature center, **NM** – national monument, **NWR** – national wildlife refuge, **P** – park, **ph** – photo, **R** – river, **RA** – recreation area, **Res** – reservoir, **S Pre** – state preserve, **SF** – state forest, **Sl** – slough, **SP** – state park, **SRA** – state recreation area, **Thousand Acre** – Thousand Acre Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Tr** – trail, **USNWR** – Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **W** – wetland, **WA** – wildlife area, **WPA** – waterfowl production area, **yg** – young.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:

All: three 6–7 Jun at Discovery P *Muscatine* (*PL, *GDW, SN, Carlos Lima Jr., MR, Grant Askren, m.ob.), one 7–9 Jun at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE, *MP, m.ob. WV, DTM, KDM, KCR, NoN, MWe), and one on 28 July at a private property adjacent to Bob Pyle M *Story* (*SJD).

Snow Goose: All: one 5 Jun–1 Jul Jensen M *Madison* (AB, SBa, Kendall Loyd, TJD) and one 19 Jul *Story* (DyO).

Greater White-fronted Goose:

All: one continuing from spring through 31 Jul at AHHP *Story* (WO, CKr, OK, PaP), other singles on 7–10 Jun Prairie Lake P *Black Hawk* (WV, DGE, KCR, NoN, MWe), 23 Jun at Hayes Pit *Buena Vista* (DSi), 28 Jun at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (JF), and 20 Jul Lost Nation Lagoons *Clinton* (MR).

Canada Goose: High count of 400 on 20 Jun at Hawkeye WA *John-*

son (JMc) with broods reported from around the state (m.ob.).

Mute Swan: All: two ad with one cygnet 5 Jun and one ad 31 Jul at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (John Bonnett, SMF) and two 6 Jun at Princeton WA *Scott* (NTi).

Trumpeter Swan:

Successful reproduction continues with reports of birds from 26 counties and cygnets reported from eight (m.ob.). High count of 11 on 31 Jul at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Blue-winged Teal: Reports from 26 counties, mostly the central and north-central parts of the state (m.ob.).

Northern Shoveler: All: three or 4 on 6 and 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi, DVC), one or 2 on 6, 17, and 18 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (ElW, BCC, JF), one on 5 Jul at Cone M WA *Louisa* (IB), 4 on 18 Jul at Maskunkya

M *Mahaska* (POR), 2 on 14 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and one 14 Jul at Kiowa M *Sac* (JDM, CoDO).

Gadwall: All: two on 2 Jun at Maynard Reese WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), one on 5 Jun at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (JMc), up to 6 on 6, 16, and 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay*, up to 11 on 19 Jun (IB) at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* but only 2 seen there on 2 July (KBn). One on 11 Jul at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (POR), and 2 on 25 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

American Wigeon: All: one 3 Jul at Crescent WA *Pottawattamie* (Donald Weidemann).

Northern Pintail: All: one on 9 and 14 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and one or 2 on 19–20 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC, JMc).

Green-winged Teal: All: two on 2 Jun at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 3 on 6 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi), one on 13 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), two on 14 Jul at Kiowa M *Sac* (CoDO, JDM), and singles 24 Jul at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (KP) and 28 Jul at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (JB).

Canvasback: All: one male 22 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP). A single female 6–27 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CT, LGR, LQ, TW) and likely the same female observed 21 Jun at the University of Iowa Research P (JoMc, CT, Lizzy Lang-ph) although impossible to confirm.

Redhead: All: four on 6 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi), one on 8 Jun at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS), 2 on 13 Jun at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi), 9 on 13 Jun at Colo Bogs WA *Story* (HZ), 2 on 14 Jun Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, AB), 5 on 14 Jun at Hendrickson M

Story (DyO), 4 on 2 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (Terry McNeely), 2 on 7 Jul at Driscoll's Island *Jackson* (ScS), and up to 4 observed 3 Jun–15 Jul at Storm Lake *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Ring-necked Duck: All: singles on 5 Jun at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (JMc), 5 Jun–1 Jul at Storm Lake *Buena Vista* (DSi), 13 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (AB), 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DVC), and 17 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Two drakes were also found 1 Jul at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO).

Lesser Scaup: All: one drake 5 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), one 6 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JTi), a pair at Deere Dike *Dubuque* on 8 Jun (DAS), a drake at Saylorville Res *Polk* from 9–17 Jun (AB), one 12–15 Jun on a private W *Boone* (Karen Fieg), and 2 drakes 22 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP).

Surf Scoter: All: one molting female 3–12 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, SJD, POR, RJT).

Common Goldeneye: All: one drake 8 Jun at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS).

Hooded Merganser: Broods were reported from Johnson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Sac, and Story (m.ob.).

Common Merganser: One late drake was seen 30 Jun at Silver Lake WA *Worth* (GEW).

Red-breasted Merganser: One late hen 7 Jul at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph) is the second latest summer record.

Ruddy Duck: Reports from 17 different counties (m.ob.) with the high count of 15 at Trumbull L *Clay* (DVC) on 17 Jun.

Northern Bobwhite: Reported from 34 counties, primarily in the southern and western part of the state (m.ob.). High counts were 20 on 25 Jun in *Taylor* (Stacia Novey) and 20 on 14 Jul in *Guthrie* (Linda Powell).

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: All: one 16 Jun at Ringgold WA *Ringgold* (JaC) and a brood 22 Jun in the Kellerton BCA *Ringgold* (Thea Clarkberg & JaC).

Gray Partridge: All: two 5 Jun in rural *Mitchell* (TMC), one 6 Jun at Colo Bogs WA *Story* (HZ), one 9 Jun at Split Rock CP *Chickasaw* (KCR), one 3 Jul in rural *Boone* (Steve Murkowski), one 18 Jul at Burrow's Pond WA *Sac* (DSi), and an ad with a brood of 16 recently-fledged chicks 29 Jul at Larson M *Story* (HZ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports from 77 counties (m.ob.) with broods reported from many.

Pied-billed Grebe: Reported from 29 counties, primarily in central Iowa (m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe: All: one reported 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DVC).

Eared Grebe: All: five reported 14 Jun at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO) and one on 29 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JLF).

Western Grebe: All: one from 21–29 Jul at Allison Sewage Lagoons *Butler* (m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reported from 80 counties including all four northeast counties where they traditionally are rare (m.ob.).

White-winged Dove: All: one reported on 7 Jun at a home in Ogden *Boone* (DCH). (See article p. 155).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Close to 850 reports from 79 counties (m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Nineteen reports from 15 counties, all from the northern two-thirds of the state (m.ob.).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 1–6 reported from Lucas *Lucas* 2 Jun to 4 Jul (DD, Chris Johnson, JMc, EEO, RJT, CW, and WV).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Most reports from Lucas *Lucas* with the only others from the southeast border counties (*Appanoose*, *Davis*, *Lee*, and *Van Buren*) and western border counties (*Monona*, *Plymouth*, *Sioux*, and *Woodbury* m.ob.).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Reports from 72 counties, mostly singles but a high count of 12 on 25 Jul at the active feeding station at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (TJL).

KING RAIL: All: one 28 Jul at Pool SI WA *Allamakee* (*TMH, BR).

Virginia Rail: All: 1–2 at Pool SI WA *Allamakee* 10 Jun–28 Jul (TMH, WV), one at Zirbel SI WA *Cerro Gordo* (JLF) and 2 at Big Wall Lake WA *Wright* (SSP) on 30 Jun. Four were reported 5 Jul at Deere Dike *Dubuque*, one on 7 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson*, and one on 12 Jul at Kiowa M *Sac* (all ScS). Two on 17 Jul in *Linn* (WiC). Singles reported on 18 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JAN) and on 28 Jul at both Myre SI *Winnebago* and Hantontown SI *Worth* (JB).

Sora: All: one 2 Jun to 1 Jul at Jensen M *Madison* (m.ob.), one 6 to 24 Jun at Cone M WA *Louisa*

(m.ob.), one on 14 Jun at Errington M WA *Polk* (RJT), one on 22 and 23 Jun *Keokuk* (HMe), 4 on 30 Jun at Big Wall Lake WA *Wright* (SSP), one on 4 Jul at Hendrickson M WA *Story* (ASp), 2 on 17 Jul at Maskunky M WA *Mahaska* (MR), one on 18 Jul at Burrow's Pond WA *Sac* (DSi), one on 25 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe), one on 28 Jul at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB), one on 30 Jul at Cardinal M WA *Winneshiekie* (BVe), and on 31 Jul one reported at Marsh Farm W *Dallas* (RJT), Meier Wildlife Refuge *Hardin* (Allen Boynton), and 2 at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (m.ob.).

Common Gallinule: All: one 2–4 Jun at Brower L *Woodbury* (BFH, POR, and GLV), as many as 5 reported at Cone M WA *Louisa* 6 Jun to 25 Jul (m.ob.), and singles reported on 8 Jun at Nahant M *Scott* (Nancy Boever), on 10 Jun *Woodbury* (GLV), on 15 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MR), on 16 Jun at Rice L SP *Worth* (RGo), on 22 Jun at Kattleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (MP), and on 30 Jun at Big Wall L WA *Wright* (SSP).

American Coot: Reported from 23 counties (m.ob.) with a high count of 13 on 14 Jun at Hendrickson M WA *Story* (DyO).

Sandhill Crane: Reports came from 30 counties with nests or colts reported from *Allamakee*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Dubuque*, *Johnson*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, and *Mitchell* (m.ob.).

Black-necked Stilt: All: two reports of breeding in the state, a well-followed pair seen with as many as 4 chicks from 2 Jun to 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (m.ob.) (see article p.150) and a pair with at least 2 half-

grown chicks on 6 Jul at Pool 13 on the Mississippi River *Clinton* (SJD).

American Avocet: All: 1–2 reported from 2 Jun to 23 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (m.ob.). A single bird reported on 9 (AB) and 18 Jun (Matt Haberkorn) at Saylorville Res *Polk* with 9 reported on 23 Jul (JB). Seven on 14 Jun at AHHP *Story* (WO). One on 16 Jul at Muskunky M *Mahaska* (KS & NTi). Trumbull L *Clay* had a high count of 12 on 5 Jun (SJD) and 4 still present on 8 Jul (Shane Wellendorf) with several sightings in between (JTi, NPB, DSi, GLV).

American Golden-Plover: All: one reported on 6 (JTi) and 22 Jun (MP) at Trumbull L *Clay*. One from 16–21 Jun (JF, JMc) at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*. A single was also reported 11 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* (PH).

Killdeer: Reported from 97 counties, all but Page & Wayne. The high count reported was 431 on 13 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (BFH).

Semipalmated Plover: All: single reported 4 Jun at Zirbel Sl WA *Cerro Gordo* (JMc). Four birds 8 Jun at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV) and again on 31 Jul (BFH, JP). Late singles reported 16 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DSi) and Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Cedar L *Linn* hosted the first returning migrant 6 Jul (JF), with later singles 24 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), 30 Jul at Sheridan Meadows P *Scott* (RyC), and 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT). Five birds reported at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (SM) and 6 at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (RJT) on 31 Jul.

Piping Plover: All: 2 reported 4 Jun at Frazer's Bend *Fremont* (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: Reports from 35 counties, up from recent years. Mostly ones or twos but highs reported of 17 on 28 Jul (BCC) and 12 on 25 Jul (JF) in *Linn*, with 10 on 20 and 29 Jul in *Benton* (WV) and *Scott* (SMF) respectively, all at private sod farms.

Whimbrel: All: one on 21 Jun at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

Hudsonian Godwit: All: one on 10 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (NPB).

Marbled Godwit: All: one on 8 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD) and 4 on 17 Jun at both Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: three on 1 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 4 on 16 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (BFH) was the high count for the summer season. One to 3 reported from 16–31 Jul at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (m.ob.). One on 28 Jul at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB), 30 Jul at Sheridan Meadows P *Scott* (RyC), and 31 Jul at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (JP, BFH). Two on 31 Jul were at Badger L WA *Monona* (JP, BFH).

Sanderling: All: 2 on 1 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC), one 24 Jul at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi), and 2 on 25 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe).

Dunlin: All: 8 on 2 Jun at USNWR *Kossuth* with only one remaining a week later on 9 Jun (MCK). One 6 Jun at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (JTi). Two reported 9 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 2 on 13 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (BFH) and 26 Jul at Hayes Pit *Buena Vista* (DSi). Singles reported 31 Jul at both Badger L WA *Monona* and New L *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

Least Sandpiper: A late bird reported 3 Jun at a private lake in *Woodbury* (BFH). First returning birds 1 Jul at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (CJG, TJD). High count was 215 on 11 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* (PH).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 5–13 birds reported 2–13 Jun at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and up to 3 reported 9–12 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 12–13 Jun at Kiowa M *Sac* (DGi, DSi), and 13–20 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc, MWe).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 3 reported 26 Jul on a private sod farm in *Dallas* (RJT), up to 4 reported 27–31 Jul from a private sod farm in *Benton* (WV and KCR), and up to 2 observed 29 and 31 Jul at a sod farm in *Scott* (SMF).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A few individuals observed throughout June and July at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (m.ob.) and throughout July at Maskunk M *Mahaska* with 10 late birds 10 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (NPB) and 20 likely heading south 11 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* (PH). About 200 reported 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and 31 Jul at a private lake in *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Eight reported 20 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) may have stayed over the summer as 6 were reported there 2 Jul (KBn). High count was 75 on 2 Jun at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Western Sandpiper: All: singles 25 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* and 27 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (both SJD) and 2 on 30 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: one on 2 Jun at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). First: two on 5 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). High count of 35 on 25 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Alex Burdo).

American Woodcock: Singles reported from nine counties in both Jun and Jul, with reports from two different locations in *Boone* (m.ob.). No broods reported.

Wilson's Snipe: All: one male winnowing 30 Jun over Hoffman Prairie *Cerro Gordo* (SSP).

Spotted Sandpiper: Reports from 49 counties of mostly singles and pairs with some groups of 3 or 4 (m.ob.). High count was 14 on 15 Jul at Sheridan Meadows P *Scott* (RyC).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: an early bird was photographed 24 Jun in *Johnson* at Cedar R Crossing Conservation Area (JMc) then another was reported 25 Jun at a private farm in *Keokuk*. Higher numbers reported in mid-to-late Jul in *Howard*, *Johnson*, *Mahaska*, *Sioux*, *Warren*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: a late individual 18 Jun at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer*. First: a single bird reported 3 Jul at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (m.ob.). High count was 125 on 11 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* (PH).

Willet: All: 3 on 4 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC) with singles 17 Jun at Red Rock Res *Marion* and 24 Jun Saylorville Res *Polk* (both SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: one on 23 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LQ). First: a single 4 Jul at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (SSP). High count of 11 on 17 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM).

Wilson's Phalarope: No confirmed breeding records but potential breeders observed late Jun/early Jul in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Marion*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: an alternate ad observed on 31 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Laughing Gull: All: one continuing first-alternate ad was reported in Jun and Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC, SJD, CJG, RJT).

Franklin's Gull: Over a hundred in Jun & Jul from *Clay* (m.ob.) with high counts also 28 Jun in *Dickinson* (Janet Adams), 6 Jul in *Marion* (TJD), and 24 Jul in *Cerro Gordo* (JMc).

Ring-billed Gull: Summer records from 26 counties with counts in the 70s in Jun from Trumbull L *Clay* (CMc, JTi). Flocks of >100 were reported in Jul from *Clay*, *Johnson*, *Marion*, *Polk*, and *Scott* (m.ob.).

Herring Gull: All: in Jul up to 8 (4 ad – two pairs each with 2 chicks, SJD) and 1–2 (Rock Creek P – KJM, MR) were reported in Pool 13 *Clin-ton*. An ad bird was reported 31 Jul from Mississippi River Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (SMF).

Least Tern: All: single ads 4 Jun at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (Matt Shanklin *fide* SJD), 12 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC, JF), 19 Jun at Louisville Bend WA *Monona* (Matt Shanklin *fide* SJD), and 4 Jul on the Missouri R near Hamburg *Fremont*

(Dakota Swisher). Two ads and a half-grown chick observed 15 Jul in *Harrison* (Matt Shanklin *vide* SJD). One juv reported 30 Jul at Morse L WPA (SJD).

Caspian Tern: Most reports from Saylorville Res *Polk* with a high count of 10 on 14 Jun (m.ob.). Other reports mostly from Hawkeye WA *Johnson* and the Mississippi R (*Clinton*, *Dubuque*, and *Scott*) with reports of single birds 14 Jun from AHHP *Story* and 28 Jun at Storm L *Buena Vista*.

Black Tern: Reports throughout Jun & Jul from 18 different counties but no confirmation of nesting. High count was 50 on 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DVC).

Forster's Tern: Twenty on 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DVC) was the high count for the summer with reports from nine counties, mostly those with larger lakes and reservoirs (m.ob.).

Common Loon: All: up to 4 first-summer birds 1 Jun at Storm L *Buena Vista* (m.ob.) with at least one that continued until 15 Jun. Also, up to 4 reported throughout Jun & Jul from Saylorville Res *Polk* (m.ob.). Other summer reports included singles 1 Jun at L *Petocka Polk* (POR), 11 Jun at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), 11 Jun–2 Jul at Dale Maffitt Res in both *Dallas* and *Madison* (JG, JJM), and 23 Jun at L *Macbride Johnson* (JF).

Double-crested Cormorant: Reports from 37 counties (m.ob.) with the high of ~100 on 27 Jul from *Scott* (KJM).

Neotropic Cormorant: All: single worn ad reported 30 Jul at Ing-ham-High L complex *Emmet* (SJD).

American White Pelican: Flocks of several hundred reported throughout Jun & Jul from *Clay*, *Emmet*, *Iowa*, *Johnson*, *Marion*, and *Polk* (m.ob.).

American Bittern: All: singles reported 2 Jun from a private wetland in *Black Hawk* (TSS) and 10 Jun from Riverview Park in Fort Madison *Lee* (KCR).

Least Bittern: All: singles reported 1 Jun at Copp Prairie WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), 6 Jun–25 Jul at Cone M WA *Louisa* (m.ob.), 10 Jun at Pool SI WA *Allamakee* (WV), 30 Jun at Zirbel SI WA *Cerro Gordo* (JLF) and Big Wall L WA *Wright* (SSP), 17 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), and 30 Jul at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).



Great Egret, Marsh Farm Wetland, Dallas, 9 July 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Great Blue Heron: Reports from 87 counties throughout Jun & Jul with a high count of 47 on 6 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (ABu).

Great Egret: Reports from only 29 counties with fewer birds reported than in recent years (m.ob.). High count was only 69 on 28 Jul from Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DH) compared to recent high summer counts of over 100.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: All: 2 confirmed, potentially 3 white juveniles were reported 17 July–3 August at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (*BCC, *DCJ, *DaG, *KS, *EIW, m.ob.). (See article p. 153).

Cattle Egret: All: a single 13 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (AB) and 8 were observed 13 June in rural *Clinton* with at least one continuing through 19 Jun (WGH, DAS). Up to 5 reported 9 Jul in rural *Dallas* (HMe, POR).

Green Heron: Reports from 41 counties with most single reports from the northeast corner of the state. High count of 6 on 31 Jul at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (KJM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: All: singles 7–11 Jun at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RaW), 18 Jun at North River Valley P *Story* (KF, JoG), and 26 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: Maskunkya M *Mahaska* hosted a well-documented group of up to 12 ad and up to 4 juv birds reported 29 Jun–31 Jul (m.ob.) (See article p. 153). The only other reported was a single juv on 30 Jul at USNWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

White-faced Ibis: All: singles on 4 Jun at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CKr, TM), 5 Jun at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* (SJD), 12 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 12 Jul at Kiowa M *Sac* (ScS). Up to 23 reported 5–8 Jun from Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD, JTi).

Turkey Vulture: Reports from all counties except *Kossuth*, *Osceola*, *Pocahontas*, and *Wayne* (m.ob.). High counts were ~90 on 6 Jul from Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR) and 19 Jul at Metro Park East Landfill *Polk* (JJa).

Osprey: Over 100 reports from 11 counties with nesting reported from *Black Hawk*, *Johnson*, *Polk*, and *Story* (m.ob.).

Northern Harrier: Twelve reports from ten counties from 21 Jun throughout Jul, with all but two reports of single birds (m.ob.).

Cooper's Hawk: Almost 150 reports across Jun & Jul from 34 counties (m.ob.). Nesting confirmed in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (Minard Petersen) and Robison WA *Story* (KF, JoG).



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 6 June 2021. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.

Bald Eagle: Reports all summer from 66 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.) with a mix of ads and imm birds and several reports of nesting.

Mississippi Kite: Most reports were from the two usual nesting locations in the West Des Moines area in *Polk* (up to 3 birds, m.ob.) and in Ottumwa *Wapello* (up to 4, m.ob.). Other reports were a single 4 Jun from Lick Creek *Lee* (CRE, LGR) and another on 6 Jun then later 29 Jun–21 Jul from a residential yard in Ames *Story* (SJD).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Sixty reports from twenty counties (m.ob.), mostly singles with some reports of up to 3 and one confirmed nesting in *Bremer* on private property (KCR).

Broad-winged Hawk: Sixteen counties had reports, mostly from the middle third of the state (m.ob.) but no reports of nesting. Almost all were singles except for reports of 2 birds 8 Jul in Thousand Acre *Monroe* (DyO) and 29 Jul on the Polk City Segment of the Neal Smith Tr *Polk* (AB).

Swainson's Hawk: All: one on 19 Jun at the Saylorville WA *Boone* (CW-ph).

Red-tailed Hawk: There were 665 reports from 88 counties with the lack of reports from the western and far southeastern parts of the state most likely due to under-reporting, not from an absence of the species (m.ob.).

Barn Owl: All: a single brood of 5 was reported at the end of Jul from a farm in Osceola *Clarke* (Dave & Joy Tokheim *fide* Karla Bloem).



Mississippi Kite, Vine Street, West Des Moines, Polk, 8 June 2021. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

Eastern Screech-Owl: All: singles 12 Jun at Ross P & RA *Page* (SCS, KVS) and at a private home in *Polk* (JB), 10 Jul in rural *Plymouth* (MaRu), 12 Jul at Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie* (JTi), 14 Jul in rural *Iowa* (KJM), 16 Jul near Albion *Marshall* (KJM, MR), 23 Jul at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve *Johnson* (JTi), 29 Jul in rural *Woodbury* (KJM), and 31 Jul at Oak Grove SP *Sioux* (RDe).

Great Horned Owl: Fifty-three reports from 25 counties (m.ob.) with imm birds 13 Jun in *Jackson* (KJM, MR) and 3 Jul at Hendrickson M WA *Story* (SSP).

Barred Owl: Nearly 200 reports from 41 counties throughout the summer (m.ob.).

Northwestern reports included 2 on 7 Jul at Stevenson Preserve *Plymouth* (TJL) and 15 Jul at Oak Grove SP *Sioux* (RDe), up to 3 birds in mid-Jul in *Monona* (JC) and 23 Jul at Lost Island P in *Palo Alto* (KJM), and one 14 Jul on the edge of Sioux City *Woodbury* (MKe).

Long-eared Owl: All: one found injured 20 Jul on a gravel road north of Amana *Iowa* (Steve Hamilton ph fide PH).



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Rainbow Bend, Calhoun, 22 June 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

Belted Kingfisher: Over 400 reports from 65 counties (m.ob.) with

high counts both of 10 on 30 Jun from *Winneshiek* (Susan Kilgore) and 25 Jul *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Over 1100 reports from 90 counties (m.ob.) with no reports from some of the northern tier counties and southwest part of the state. Appears to have been a good year for the species with double-digit counts on checklists from half a dozen counties and over 30 reported on 26 Jun from Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Over 1500 reports from 84 counties (m.ob.), including several in the northwest part of the state, where this species is less common. Up to 6 on 4 Jun were at Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KJM) and a single bird was reported on 27 Jun near Westfield in *Plymouth* (Eric Pilotte), and another on 2 Jul at Stolley Gravel Pit Park *Clay* (Ryder Erdmann). The area around Spirit L *Dickinson* had quite a few reports in Jun & Jul (m.ob.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: High count of 4 in a family group 1 Jul at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (GEw). Reports from fifteen counties throughout Jun & Jul, all in the northern two-thirds of the state (m.ob.).

Downy Woodpecker: Over 1700 reports from 86 counties all over the state in both Jun & Jul (m.ob.).

Hairy Woodpecker: Far fewer reports (~550) than Downy, from only 66 counties (m.ob.) with a high count of 7 on 12 Jul at Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ).



Black-necked Stilt, Pool 13, Clinton, 9 June 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Common Loon, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 1 June 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



American Kestrel, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 16 June 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Marbled Godwits, Red Rock Reservoir; Marion, 17 June 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Upland Sandpiper, rural area in wind farm near Paton, Greene, 15 June 2021. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.



Northern Bobwhite, Wanatee Park, Linn, 19 July 2021. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.



Killdeer, Buena Vista, 20 June 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Snowy Egret, Pool 13, Clinton, 9 June 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Semipalmated Sandpipers, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 1 June 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Western Sandpiper, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 27 July 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 30 June 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



Henslow's Sparrow, Diamond Lake Wildlife Area, Poweshiek, 16 June 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Hooded Warbler, Stephens State Forest, Lucas, 8 July 2021. Photograph by Dylan Osterhaus, Ames, IA.



Grasshopper Sparrow, Neal Smith NWR, Jasper, 27 June 2021. Photograph by Reid I. Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



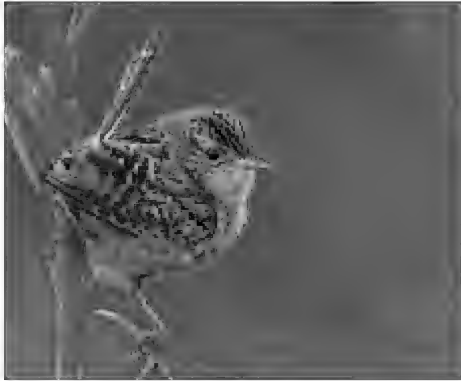
Eastern Screech-Owl, Private Property, Poweshiek, 8 June 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



Blue Grosbeak, Jester Park, Polk, 9 June 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Mississippi Kite, Polk, 6 June 2021. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.





Sedge Wren, Pickerel Lake, Buena Vista, 31 July 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Common Yellowthroat, Wanatee Park, Linn, 19 July 2021. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.



Cliff Swallow, Henderson Landing, Webster, 11 Jul 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



Red-eyed Vireo, Rainbow Bend, Calhoun, 22 June 2021. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.



Common Grackle, Maskunk Marsh, Mahaska, 4 July 2021. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.



Dickcissel, Buena Vista, 9 June 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Northern Flicker: Nearly 700 reports came from 76 counties all over the state through Jun & Jul (m.ob.) with a high count of 12 on 12 Jul at Lake Keomah SP *Mahaska* (KCR).

Pileated Woodpecker: Mostly singles or pairs in the 205 reports from 43 counties (m.ob.). High counts of 4 on 20 Jun (Alice Linhart) and 26 Jul (JLe) at Macbride Nature RA *Johnson* and on 26 Jun & 6 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR). Of note was a single bird 10 Jun at Buena Vista County Conservation P *Buena Vista* at the edge of their range (MR).

American Kestrel: Over 200 reports from 60 counties, mostly concentrated in the central and east-central part of the state (m.ob.). High count of 6 on 19 Jul near Colo *Story* (DyO).

Merlin: All: one observed on 20 Jun in North English *Iowa* (DH), another frequented a yard in Dubuque *Dubuque* from 26 Jun through 13 Jul (TM). Later one was reported on 26 Jul at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS).

Peregrine Falcon: Nineteen reports from 11 counties throughout Jun & Jul (m.ob.). Most along the Mississippi River and the rest were single observations (m.ob.).

Western Kingbird: Fifty-seven reports from 10 counties, primarily along the “west coast” of the state and in *Polk* where they are well-established (m.ob.). Others included singles on 6 Jun in *Jasper* (Vern Tunnell) and on 9 Jul in *Adair* (HMe), 4 on 20 Jul in *Page* (Matt Scott), and the most notable, a pair feeding 3 fledglings on 27 Jul in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (TGS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All: 2 on 1 Jun in *Black Hawk*, one at Big Woods L (LFi), the other at Cedar Hills Sand Prairie (MWe) while 4 were counted on 1 Jun at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (KJAB). The rest were all singles: 2 Jun in *Linn* (Jane Nesmith), 4 and 10 Jun at St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Iowa City *Johnson* (JHu), 5 Jun at Harmon L WA *Winnebago* (RAS), and 8 and 10 Jun at Stone SP *Woodbury* (BFH, TLe, Joey Zehring), all later migrants.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Almost 1500 reports from 87 counties (m.ob.) 1 Jun–31 Jul mostly along the major rivers of Iowa. About 25 on 4 Jun at Geode SP *Henry* was the high (JoK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: singles 1 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Maxwell Mercado), 2 Jun at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (DD, DTh), and 4 Jun at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported 1 Jun–31 Jul from 33 counties with almost 200 observations (m.ob.). High count was 15 on 18 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (CFr, NGi). Three on 11 Jul at Dolliver Memorial SP *Webster* (MHB) and one on 28 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB) were at the limits of this species’ range.

Alder Flycatcher: All: singles on 1 Jun at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (POR), 3 Jun in rural *Kossuth* (MCK), 4 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 5 Jun at both White Pine Hollow S Pre *Dubuque* (Gerald Zuercher) and Harmon L WA *Winnebago* (RAS), and 8 Jun at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS).

Willow Flycatcher: Reported throughout the summer from 54

counties, totaling 375 observations with two-thirds of the reports of single individuals (m.ob.). Three reports of 9 individual birds 6 Jun from *Linn* (PMo), 11 Jun in *Johnson* (JKe), and 5 Jul in *Appanoose* (SSP).

Least Flycatcher: All: up to 3 on 4 and 12 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (MP, PDBS), one on 1 Jul at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (Jeffrey Mollenhauer), 2 on 3 Jul on Army Rd near New Albin *Allamakee* and another *Allamakee* single at Pool Slough WA on 9 Jul (Fred & Kate Dike). Also on 9 Jul, one in Long Grove *Scott* (RyC). Two on 15 Jul at Dunlop Wildlife Area *Sioux* (KVZ), one recorded on 22 Jul in rural *Ringgold* (Benjamin Ewing), and one on 24 Jul at Hoffman Prairie *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Eastern Phoebe: Over 300 reports from 64 counties throughout Jun & Jul (m.ob.). The only reports from the northwest quarter of the state were 1–2 birds on 5 Jun, 10 and 25 Jul from Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (JTi, CMc). A February winter ice storm in Texas raised concerns about possible impacts on the species but numbers seemed good.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 1–4 reported 4 Jun–14 Jul from Croton and Lick Creek and rural *Lee* (KBe, CRE, TNJ, LGR, MWe). Three on 14 Jun at the Matsell Bridge WA *Linn* (JF). One on 25 Jun from the Trestle Tr *Polk* (SCS, KVS). 1–2 reported on 2 and 8 Jul from Thousand Acre and rural *Monroe* (DyO, SSP). Singles 4 Jul at Lucas *Lucas* (EEO), 21 Jul at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (TM), and 25–28 Jul at Macbride Nature RA *Johnson* (MHB, JLe, CT).

Bell's Vireo: Over 250 reports from 38 counties around the state 1 Jun–31 Jul (m.ob.).

Most reports of 1–2 but several higher counts, the highest being 10 on 2 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc). No reports from far northeast or northwest Iowa.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Over 550 reports from 67 counties across Iowa, again mostly 1–2 individuals with a high count of 11 on 16 Jul near Albia *Marshall* (KJM, MR).

Loggerhead Shrike: Thirty-three reports from only five counties: *Iowa*, *Madison*, *Plymouth*, *Ringgold*, and *Scott* (m.ob.). Most reports of 1–2, but 7, all adults, reported on 19 Jun from Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (BFH, JP).

FISH CROW: In addition to the continuing birds at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Langan 2021) which were reported 1 Jun–30 Jul (BCC, SJD, CJG, DCH, RJT), at least one, possibly up to 3 birds reported on 1 Jul in Muscatine *Muscatine* (*SN).

Tufted Titmouse: 318 reports throughout the summer from 39 counties south and east of a line from Wineshiek to Boone to Pottawattamie (m.ob.). Mostly reports of 1–2 with a high count of 20 on 4 Jun at Geode SP *Henry* (JoK).

Horned Lark: There were 72 reports from 29 counties with only a handful of records west of I-35 (m.ob.). High count of 24 on 29 Jul at Seven Cities Sod Farm *Scott* (SMF).

Bank Swallow: Reports from 50 counties with hardly any from the southern tier (m.ob.). From 175 reports, the most birds reported by far was ~400 on 6 Jul across *Tama* (KJM).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Most reports from the Mississippi R and the other major rivers in the state with the high count 60 on 23 Jul from the railway line in Burlington *Des Moines* (Chris Chappell).

Purple Martin: Almost 400 reports from 60 counties (m.ob.) with high counts consistently from AHHP *Story*, peaking with 114 on 31 Jul (WO).

Cliff Swallow: Reports from all 99 counties except *Osceola* and *Page* (m.ob.). From 1100+ reports the high count was 510 on 15 Jun along the Floyd R Sioux City *Woodbury* (BFH).

Cedar Waxwing: Over 900 reports from 82 counties around the state with most reports of 2+ individuals (m.ob.). High count of 52 on 23 Jun in rural *Keokuk* (HMe).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: singles on 2 Jun at Honey Creek SP *Appanoose* (CW), 4 Jun at Jester P *Polk* (DTh), 7 Jun at Brooks National Golf Course *Dickinson* (Ashley Hansen), and on 31 Jul at Oak Grove SP *Sioux* (RDe). A single and two groups of 2 were reported on 17 & 18 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (CFr, NGi).

Brown Creeper: All: 2 reported 17 Jul from Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (CFr, NGi), and singles 26 Jul at Calkins Nature Preserve *Hardin* (KJM) and 31 Jul at Stone SP *Woodbury* (BLu-ph).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Over 350 reports from 55 counties, mostly

from the central and eastern half of the state (m.ob.). Confirmed nesting at ERVP *Story* with fledglings observed 28 Jun (SSP). High count of 10 on 4 Jun at Geode SP *Henry* (JoK).

Sedge Wren: Almost 150 reports from 42 counties all over the state (m.ob.) with the largest hole in the southwest quarter, approaching that edge of their breeding range. Most reports are singles but two different sites reported the high of 7 birds at the end of Jul: 26 Jul at Legacy W Conservation Area *Hardin* (KJM) and 29 Jul at Oswego W Conservation Area *Woodbury* (MKe, KJM).

Marsh Wren: Nearly 150 reports from 36 counties (m.ob.) with none from the two southern rows of counties, near the edge of their breeding range. High count of 12 singing males on 30 Jun at Big Wall Lake WA *Wright* (SSP).

Carolina Wren: There were 101 reports from sixteen counties distributed around the state (m.ob.) except for the northwest corner. Almost all are 1–2 birds barring two reports of 3: on 25 Jul at a private residence in *Scott* (RAS) and 29 Jul at Palisades P Decorah *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Bewick's Wren: All: only one report of the infamous male at the Argyle junkyard *Lee* on 6 Jun (MWe).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 2 reported 2 & 4 Jun near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, BVL) and 1–2 reported 10 Jun–3 Jul from rural

Iowa, in particular near Indiangrass Hills IBA (m.ob.). Singles reported 4 Jun & 6 Jul in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (KH), 6 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CT), 2 Jul at Thousand Acre *Monroe* (SSP), 3 Jul south of Vandalia *Jasper* (AMJ), and 17 Jul in rural *Poweshiek* (CHa).

Veery: All: 1–6 on 2 Jun, 1 & 2 Jul from *Boone* (TG, KJ, SSP), 1–3 on 2 & 7 Jun, 13 Jul in *Linn* (BCC, JF), 2 on 3 Jun in *Iowa* (JF), 1–2 from 19 Jun–12 Jul at Backbone SP *Delaware* (m.ob.), and singles 25 Jun at Pine Valley Nature Area *Jackson* (KJM), 9 Jul at Saulsbury Bridge RA *Muscatine* (KJM), and 13 Jul at Bixby SP *Clayton* (DGE).

Wood Thrush: Over 300 reports from 52 counties around the state (m.ob.). Most reports of singles but the two high counts were 7 on 2 Jul at Thousand Acre *Monroe* (SSP) and 8 Jul at Scott County P *Scott* (LJo).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reports from 20 counties, primarily from the southeast but expanding north and west to *Buchanan* (m.ob.). Generally small flocks but high count of 55 on 18 Jul at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (MR).

House x Eurasian Tree Sparrow: The continuing hybrid was well-documented through Jun & Jul at AHHP *Story* (WO).

Pine Siskin: All: a single bird continued 1–7 Jun at a yard in *Polk* (Phil Walsh). Up to 3 visited feeders 1 Jun–8 Jul at a private residence in *Boone* (KJ). Two on 3–4 Jun were at a Mason City *Cerro Gordo* yard (Maria

Meyer). One to 2 on 1 Jun & 3 Jul in Dubuque *Dubuque* (KJAB). One visited a feeder 12–14 Jun at a farm near Rippey *Greene* (CR). On 10 Jul one was found at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (WMZ) and a single juv visited feeders 10–11 Jul at a yard in Ames *Story* (SJD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: There were 172 reports from 40 counties all over the state (m.ob.) with a high count of 13 on 17 Jun in *Decatur* (KJM).



Grasshopper Sparrow, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 23 July 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Lark Sparrow: Reports from 47 counties across Iowa (m.ob.) with most reports from the center of the state and around Hawkeye WA *Johnson*, where the high count of 8 was reported on 28 Jul (DH).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All northern tier county birds: singles on 1 Jun in *Clay* (JT_i), 2 Jun in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), 18 Jul in *Howard* (SSt), and 27 Jul *Winnebago* (JB). Birds reported from *Dickinson* included a single on 22 Jun at Kettleson Hogsback WA (MP) and 4 and 7 on 2 Jul at Garlock SI and Twin Forks WA respectively (Michele Swartout).

Field Sparrow: Nearly 750 reports from 78 counties around the state (m.ob.). High count of 21 including recently-fledged young on 15 Jul at a farm in *Monona* (JC).

White-throated Sparrow: All: a single male on 4 Jul from a yard in rural *Winneshiek* (Kirk Larsen), another on 16 Jul in rural *Marshall* was well-documented (KJM, MR-ph), and a third was singing on 20 Jul in rural *Polk* (BTh).

Vesper Sparrow: Reports of mostly 1–2 generally from the central and eastern parts of the state (m.ob.) but with some of the higher counts in late Jul in *Woodbury* (KJM). Of the fifty reports, the high was 10 on 27 Jul along a Tr in *Story* (SSP).

Henslow's Sparrow: There were 101 reports from 22 counties (m.ob.) with no reports from the west and northwest. One on 28 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* is the most northwest report (JB). Multiple reports of several birds from Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* and Indiangrass Hills IBA *Iowa* with the high count of 15 on 4 Jul at the latter (PMo).

Savannah Sparrow: Only 21 reports from 19 counties, almost all 1–2 (m.ob.), mostly in an east-west band in the middle of the state with a few reports from the far northeast corner.

Swamp Sparrow: Twenty-seven counties had reports of this species, almost entirely from the northern half of the state (m.ob.) except for 8 birds

reported on 15 Jun from Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (JCa, SSc, WRS). High count of 16 on 30 Jun at Big Wall L WA *Wright* (SSP).

Spotted Towhee: All: one on 9 Jun at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TLe). However, reports of at least one suspected hybrid Spotted x Eastern Towhee male from this location on 10 Jun and 4 Jul (BFH, TJL).

Eastern Towhee: Almost 550 reports from 69 counties throughout the state (m.ob.). Most reports of 1–2 birds but high counts, both of 14, on 5 Jul from Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL) and 12 Jul at Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Sixty-three reports from 19 counties, almost entirely from the south-east portion of the state (m.ob.) except for two reports of single birds on 12 Jun from different properties in *Mitchell* (Pinicon Alders & Brownville WAs) on 12 Jun (SSt). Almost all single bird reports but the high count was 13 on 5 Jul at Sedan Bottoms WA *Appanoose* (SSP).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Nearly 100 reports from 20 counties (m.ob.), primarily those with extensive wetlands in the north-central part of the state and areas along the Missouri, Iowa, and Wapsipinicon Rs. Counts of ~20 were reported 12 and 21 Jun from Kiowa M *Sac* (DGi, Rex Rundquist), 14 Jun at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO), 17 Jun at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (DVC), and 30 Jun at Big Wall L WA *Wright* (SSP) with confirmed nesting at the latter.

Bobolink: Over 200 reports from 58 counties across the state with most reports of multiple birds (m.ob.). High counts were 18 on 3 Jul at Indi-angrass Hills IBA *Iowa* (TW) and 17 – including fledged yg – on 13 Jul at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (WBJ) and also on 16 Jul at a private property in *Marshall* (KJM, MR).

Eastern Meadowlark: Almost 650 reports from 76 counties all over Iowa (m.ob.). Most reports of 1–2 birds but quite a few of 3–4. High counts were both from Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* in late Jun: 25 on 21 Jun (Barbara Stewman) and 20 on 28 Jun (Cheryl Groom).

Western Meadowlark: Reports statewide from 36 counties, from *Plymouth* (m.ob.) to *Dubuque* (TM, DAS) but concentrated in the central part of the state. High count of 10 on 22 Jun from a private property in *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

Orchard Oriole: Seventy-two counties produced almost 575 reports from all parts of the state (m.ob.). Half a dozen reports had double-digit counts with DeSoto NWR *Harrison* consistently having 10–20 individual birds from early Jun into Jul (m.ob.).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Over 1800 reports from 94 counties, all except *Audubon*, *Hancock*, *Humboldt*, *Page*, and *Wayne*. Counts of 50+ on 6 Jul at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT), 27 Jul in *Story* (SSP), and 29 Jul in *Benton* (KJM).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 1–2 were reported on 2 & 4 Jun from areas around Dunbar SI WA *Greene* (JJo, VW). Reports of up to 7 on 2 Jun and 25 Jul from Jensen M *Madison* (WBJ,

RJT). One or 2 reported on 4 & 14 Jun from Errington M WA *Polk* (JMc, RJT). A single bird was seen 13 Jun at a private wetland in *Pottawattamie* (Matt Shurtliff). A male and a female were reported 30 Jun from Hoffman Prairie *Cerro Gordo* (SSP). One was reported 1 Jul from a marsh near Donnellson *Lee*, representing the eastern-most report (CJG). Singles were also reported 12 Jul from Kiowa M *Sac* (ScS) and 22 Jul a private property in *Marion* (JJa).

Ovenbird: Nearly 100 reports from 33 counties from forested areas of the state (m.ob.). The lone north-west Iowa records were all from Stone SP *Woodbury* where up to 3 were reported 9 Jun–5 Jul (BFH, TLe, TJL). High counts of 8–9 the first week of Jul were all from Stephens SF, both *Lucas & Monroe* (EEO, DyO, SSP).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: likely the same bird reported on 4, 15, & 19 Jun at Croton *Lee* (CRE, TNJ).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reports from 17 counties, primarily along the Mississippi and Mis-souri Rs but also sites along the Des Moines & Raccoon Rs and counties along the southern border (m.ob.). High count of 9 on 22 Jun from Waubonsie SP *Fremont* but it was noted that there were likely more present (JCa, SSc, WRS).

Blue-winged Warbler: Only 26 reports from nine counties (m.ob.), this edge-of-range species was found almost entirely in the eastern third of the state. Some exceptions include two reports at Thousand Acre

Monroe, one of a female feeding 3 fledglings on 2 Jul (SSP), the other of a single bird on 8 Jul (DyO), and two reports of a single bird on 2 & 9 Jul at Kuehn Conservation Area *Dallas*, pushing the western edge of their range (Barbara Pokorny, KP).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: single late birds reported 4 & 19 Jun at Croton *Lee* (CRE), 8 Jun in *Muscatine* (KJM), 12 Jun at Cedar Valley P *Cedar* (KJM, MR), 13 Jun at Eden Valley Refuge *Jackson* (KJM, MR), 16 Jun at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (JCa, SSc, WRS), 25 Jun at Pine Valley Nature Area (KJM), and 6 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR), and the last on 15 Jul at Indian Creek NC *Linn* was well-described (Tom Bootsmiller).

Prothonotary Warbler: There were 116 reports from 21 counties, mostly along the Mississippi R counties, the Iowa R, and concentrated in the central part of the state (m.ob.). High count of 26 on 6 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR) but 25 reported 10 Jun at Pool SI WA *Allamakee* was reported as a “conservative estimate” (WV).

Kentucky Warbler: Almost all of the 56 reports came from counties along or adjacent to the Mississippi & Missouri Rs, at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*, and counties south of I-80 (m.ob.). The only record north of I-80 and west of I-35 was a single bird on Jun 27 near Honey Creek *Boone* (EEO).

Hooded Warbler: All: singles, a singing male on 6 Jun near Argyle *Lee* (MWe), another 2, 4, and 8 Jul at Thousand Acre *Monroe* (EEO, DyO, SSP), and another 25 & 26 Jul at

Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (TM, DAS).

Cerulean Warbler: Thirty-nine reports from 18 counties, mostly from sites near the Mississippi R but several in early Jun from *Johnson* (m.ob.). A male was recorded singing on 12 Jun at Goeldner Woods *Madison* as the westernmost record this summer (SBa). High counts of 4 on 4 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (MP) and 15 Jun at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (Wes Donnell).

Northern Parula: Over 120 reports from around the state (m.ob.) with some interesting reports 5 Jun from Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* and 5 & 31 Jul at Stone SP *Woodbury* (BLu-ph, TJL). Most reports were of 1–2 but half a dozen were of 3 birds in *Cedar*, *Fremont*, *Johnson*, and *Van Buren* (m.ob.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: All: a single late male was found on 4 Jul at Thousand Acre *Monroe*, actively feeding, potentially gathering food (EEO).

Palm Warbler: All: one late bird was well-observed and described 4 Jun from the Chuck Gipp Fish Hatchery in Decorah *Winneshiek* (James Shuman).

Pine Warbler: All: a single bird was found 19 Jun in Farmington *Lee* (CRE).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: All: a male was found singing 25 Jul at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (TJL).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Eighteen counties had reports of this species throughout Jun & Jul, all of 1–2 birds (m.ob.). Ledges SP *Boone* continues to hold as the westernmost spot

to find this species in the state during the breeding season (EEO). There were multiple reports from *Polk* and *Story* this summer (MHB, EEO, Mike Shultz, SCS) but the rest were all from the eastern third of the state.

Black-throated Green Warbler:

All: a late migrant was heard 4 Jun at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (Robert Perez).

Summer Tanager:

Reported from roughly a quarter of counties throughout the season, primarily those south of I-80, with several reports from more northerly counties. A high of 7 singing males was recorded on 5 Jul at Sedan Bottoms WA *Appanoose* (SSP).

Scarlet Tanager:

Well-distributed across the state with 95% of counties reporting at least one with a high count of 9 on 13 Jun at Eden Valley Refuge *Jackson* (KJM).

Northern Cardinal:

Multiple reports throughout the summer from Lyon and Sioux may indicate a slight northwesterly movement of this species (m.ob.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Good numbers and successful fledging reported (m.ob.).

Blue Grosbeak: Numbers away from the expected western and southern areas of the state continue to increase with reports from 34 counties. High counts of 9 at both Saylorville Res *Polk* on 11 Jun (SJD) and Owego W *Woodbury* on 29 Jul (KJM) indicate successful breeding.

Indigo Bunting: Consistently reported statewide (m.ob.) with a high of 30 birds counted on 5 Jul at Sedan Bottoms WMA *Appanoose* (SSP).

Dickcissel: There were over 2000 records this summer from all ninety-nine counties, with several hundred reporting double-digit numbers of birds (m.ob.). Reports from BBS routes in the northeast part of the state showed more of this species in that region than were previously reported here (PDBS). Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* continues to showcase the importance of maintaining habitat with multiple reports of >50 individuals of this grassland species (m.ob.).



Fish Crow, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 10 July 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Little Blue Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 18 July 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

COMMENT

First, my apologies for how long it took to compile this report. I knew it was going to be a big undertaking, especially during the school year, and even with help from Tyler Harms and Ann Johnson with wrangling the initial data it still took much longer than I imagined. I included information from 197 species here, which is about twenty more than is typical. This is out of the 225 species that were reported in the 96,120 records from eBird, the IOU, and those that were sent to me directly. That is spot-on the average total number of species occurring in Iowa in the summer season. However, there were several species that went unreported. This includes Ruffed Grouse, which I take personal responsibility for not finding and documenting, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate even in historic strongholds. Reports of Snowy Egret, Ross's Goose, and Prairie Warbler were also notably absent.

I need to express my gratitude to many people. First of all, this is an incredible resource and I am extremely thankful to all who submitted data. Not everyone who did is included in the contributors below but please know that your participation was appreciated. As mentioned above, Tyler Harms and Ann Johnson assisted with compiling the data but I must give special thanks to Ann Johnson for her patience and assistance while I have been working on this. She often asked how she could help to speed it along but with this being my first time I honestly did not know what she could help with. AJ, you're a treasure and this organization owes so much to you.

Jim Dinsmore set the bar incredibly high. His knowledge of Iowa's breeding birds is legendary and I am so grateful for the many years that he compiled this report. When I agreed to take on the Summer Field Reports I knew that there would be a steep learning curve and that I will likely never reach his level (I still have to look at a map and say, "Where exactly IS that county?") but if we want this organization to remain as the historical and scientific record for Iowa's birds, then we all must do what we can to help it continue.

I must also apologize to Karen Viste-Sparkman for delaying her last issue as Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. We all have greatly appreciated her serving in this role and she has done an excellent job.

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Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 2 July 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 16 July 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 18 July 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 18 July 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2021 Board Meeting

12 September 2021

The Fall 2021 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Fall 2021 Board of Directors meeting was held on 12 September 2021 via Zoom video conference. Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance included President Dennis Thompson, Vice President Dick Sayles, Treasurer Tom Dougherty, Secretary Katie Byerly, and board members Betty Lucas, Curt Nelson, Wendy VanDeWalle, Clayton Will, and Sharon Bauer.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Dougherty presented the Treasurer's Report. The net loss for the year, not including the Breeding Bird Atlas, will be about \$2000. This is assuming membership renewals at the end of the year are on par with last year. The Breeding Bird Atlas expenses for the year are around \$4,500. The organization had set aside \$16,500 for the publication of the atlas. The total expenses for the project are currently just over \$14,000 and no further significant expenses are expected.

Project Proposals: Clayton Will shared his proposals for possible projects the IOU could donate to or work on.

Proposal # 1: It was suggested that we review the black and white bird photos printed in the *Iowa Bird Life* publication. The pictures are in color online; however, except for the 4 center pages in *IBL*, the other bird photos are black and white. Discussion was held regarding that this would historically be left up to the Publications Committee, that it would increase cost of publication, and if fewer photos are used it might discourage the number of photos submitted. The board decided to not increase the number of color photos in *IBL*.

Proposal # 2 included several suggestions for IOU to assist in the building of observation platforms throughout Iowa's prime birding locations. The board agreed these would be worthwhile projects and discussed how these projects might be completed. The Projects Committee would be involved in contacting county or city boards for their approval and agreement of later maintaining these platforms. Dennis will contact the Projects Committee to get their input on the proposal.

Proposal #3: The board members discussed the proposal of notifying the different county conservation boards of prime birding sites so that they might be aware when they are managing the habitat of these areas. It was decided to trust the conservation boards in their decision making of land conservation.

New Business:

IOU would like to offer the members opportunities for online Zoom presentations. Dick Sayles will contact a possible presenter and initiate the first Zoom presentation. Ideas for presentations can be given to Dick. The board suggested a presentation on the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas. Dick will also contact the Events Committee to turn the Zoom presentation project over to them.

The board discussed holding another Big Weekend this October. Many positive comments have been received about the last Big Weekend. Dick will look at the calendar and plan an online weekend event in October.

IOU has funds donated to be used on projects. This sum is around \$58,000. The board would like to see this money be used on worthwhile projects that would benefit its members and encourage birding in Iowa. The Board will expect any infrastructure projects approved by the Projects Committee to also be approved by the Board. Board members believe the IOU members would be encouraged to donate funds to similar IOU projects if they see the monies being used in positive projects, whether that be assisting in the purchase of land for habitat or the building of observation platforms, as examples. The board will let members know that we are actively seeking project suggestions.

The Spring IOU meeting will be held in Carroll, IA. The tentative dates are the weekend of 30 April–1 May 2022. Organizers are working with Jon Dunn to be the main speaker.

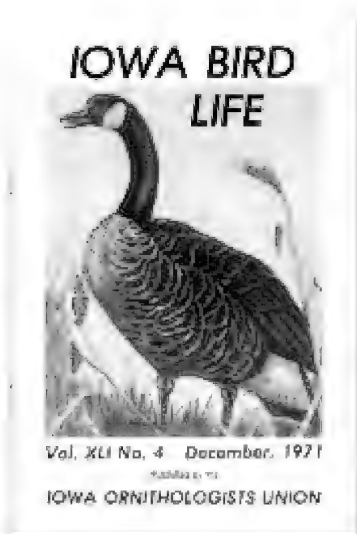
Motion to Adjourn was made by Sharon Bauer and seconded by Tom Dougherty. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Byerly, secretary

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The lead article in the somewhat thin 20-page December 1971 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is an article by editor Peter Petersen on birding areas in Davenport, Scott County, and nearby Rock Island, Illinois. He starts the article with a brief discussion of some of the habitats available and then discusses six river bottom areas, eight upland areas, and three others including a drive along the river. Several of the sites will be familiar to many readers such as Credit Island Park, Princeton Marsh, and Lock and Dam 14. He also includes several that are not familiar to me including two private woodlots, Allen's Grove and Pinneo's Grove, and Fejervary Park and several cemeteries in Davenport. It would be interesting to know if some of those sites he described are still good birding areas. He includes a map of the region which shows where these sites are located.

The other major article, *A Sky Patrol* by Lucile Elson, describes her experiences with several highly aerial birds, starting with Chimney Swift, and including Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, and several other swallows. For each, she describes some basic life history of the species and her personal experiences with the species.

The field reports for fall 1971 by Woodward Brown describe a fairly average fall migration period. The counts for species like waterfowl, pelicans, gulls, and shorebirds seem fairly modest compared to what is currently being reported. The closest I could find to any rarities being reported were a Least Tern in Polk County and a Sharp-tailed (= Nelson's) Sparrow at East Twin Lake in Hancock County. Otherwise, apparently not a very exciting fall for birding.

The only short note described a Western Tanager found in Des Moines by Woodward Brown, only the third record for Iowa. The books that were reviewed included a basic ornithology text by Andrew Berger that was the one I used during my first college course on the topic.

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Index—2021

Compiled by James J. Dinsmore

A

Amana, 88-96
Ames, 86, 88-96, 97
Andalusia, 88-96
Avocet, American, 18, 113, 124, 164

B

Bendorf, Carl, J., In memoriam: Thomas H. Kent, 1-4
Bird banding, 43-44
Bittern
 American, 23, 117, 167
 Least, 23, 117, 167
Blackbird
 Brewer's, 36, 81, 86, 96, 132-133
 Red-winged, 36, 81, 86, 96, 132
 Rusty, 28, 36, 78, 86, 96, 132
 Yellow-headed, 36, 86, 132, 179
Bluebird
 Eastern, 32, 73, 77, 85, 94
 Mountain, 141
Board of Directors meeting, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Bobolink, 36, 132, 180
Bobwhite, Northern, 12, 16, 61, 66, 85, 91, 111, 160, 163, 171
Book reviews, 44-46, 46-47, 145-147
Boone County, 88-96, 97, 155
Brant, 108-109
Bremer County, 83, 87, 88-96, 97
Brown, Mark
 Roseate Spoonbill at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, 7-8
 Biography of, 56-57
Buchanan County, 83, 88-96
Bufflehead, 16, 65-66, 91, 111
Bunting
 Indigo, 38, 136, 182
 Lazuli, 142
 Painted, 142,
 Snow, 28, 34, 45, 62, 80, 86, 130
Burlington, 6, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88-96, 97
Byerly, Katie, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, board meeting minutes, 48-49, 186-187

C

Canton, 88-96
Canvasback, 14, 65, 84, 90, 110, 162
Cardinal, Northern, 86, 96, 182
Carroll County, 83, 88-96
Cass County, 88-96, 97
Caster, Chris, Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2020-2021, 83-97
Caswell, Brandon
 Iowa's first successful nesting record of Black-necked Stilt at Hawk eye Wildlife Area, Johnson County, 150-152
 _____ and Dean Hester, Field reports—fall 2020, 10-39
Catbird, Gray, 33, 74, 86, 129
Cedar Falls-Waterloo, 85, 88-96
Cedar Rapids, 88-96, 97
Chat, Yellow-breasted, 35-36, 137, 179
Cherokee, 87, 88-96, 97
Chickadee, Black-capped, 85, 94
Christmas Bird Count, 83-97
Chuck-will's-widow, 112, 163
Clinton, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88-96, 97
Clinton County, 4-5
Collared-Dove, Eurasian, 67, 85, 91, 112, 163
Coot, American, 18, 67, 91, 113, 164
Cormorant
 Double-crested, 23, 68, 84, 92, 117, 167
 Neotropic, 23, 108, 117, 167
Cowbird, Brown-headed, 36, 81, 86, 96, 180
Crane, Sandhill, 18, 67, 75, 84-85, 97, 113, 164
Creeper, Brown, 85, 94, 128, 177
Crookham-Johnson, Diane, Mighty Maskunkya Marsh and the visiting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 153-154
Crossbill
 Red, 12, 34, 42, 79, 86, 95, 130
 White-winged, 12, 34, 77, 79, 86, 97

Crow

- American, 85, 94
- Fish, 32, 108, 128, 141, 160, 176, 182

Cuckoo

- Black-billed, 17, 112, 160, 163
- Yellow-billed, 17, 112, 163

D

- Dallas County, 88-96
- Davenport, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88-96, 97
- Decorah, 85, 88-96
- Des Moines, 86, 88-96, 97
- Des Moines County, 6
- De Soto National Wildlife Refuge, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88-96, 97
- Dickcissel, 38, 62, 87, 97, 136, 174, 182
- Dinsmore, James J.,
 - Fifty years ago in *Iowa Bird Life*, 52, 100, 148, 188
 - Index—2021, 189-196
- Dinsmore, Stephen J., and Bruce L. Ehresman, Iowa breeding bird atlas II (review of), 44-46
- Dougherty, Tom
 - I.O.U., Financial report, 50-51, 186
 - See Will, Clayton, and _____
- Dove (*See also* Collared-Dove)
 - Mourning, 67, 85, 91, 112
 - Rock, 85
 - White-winged, 17, 112, 155-158, 161, 163
- Dowitcher
 - Long-billed, 20-21, 115
 - Short-billed, 20, 115, 127, 166
- Dubuque, 88-96, 97
- Duck (*See also* Whistling-Duck)
 - American Black, 14, 64, 84, 90, 110
 - Harlequin, 12, 15, 139
 - Long-tailed, 16, 61, 65, 75, 84, 97, 111
 - Mottled, 12, 14, 139
 - Ring-necked, 15, 65, 84, 91, 110, 162
 - Ruddy, 5, 16, 66, 84, 91, 111, 162
 - Wood, 64, 84, 90, 109, 123, 160
 - Dunbar Slough, 83, 88-96
 - Dunlin, 19, 114, 125, 165

E

Eagle

- Bald, 29, 40, 41, 62, 69, 85, 92, 118, 169
- Golden, 24, 40, 42, 69, 85, 92, 118
- East River Valley Park, 101-103
- Editor's comments, 149
- Egret
 - Cattle, 23, 117-118, 168
 - Great, 23, 117, 167, 168
 - Snowy, 23, 117, 126, 172, 183
- Eldora-Union, 88-96

F

Falcon

- Peregrine, 30, 40, 42, 62, 72, 85, 93, 120, 175
- Prairie, 30, 40, 72, 87, 97, 120

Field reports

- fall, 10-39
- spring, 106-139
- summer, 159-185
- winter, 59-82

- Fifty years ago in *Iowa Bird Life*, 52, 100, 148, 188

- Financial reports, 50-51, 186

Finch

- House, 86, 95
- Purple, 12, 33-34, 42, 79, 86, 95, 130

- Flicker, Northern, 26, 30, 71-72, 85, 93, 120, 175

Flycatcher

- Acadian, 31, 120-121, 175
- Alder, 31, 121, 175
- Great crested, 30, 121
- Least, 31, 121, 176
- Olive-sided, 31, 120, 175
- Scissor-tailed, 108, 121, 126
- Willow, 31, 121, 175-176
- Yellow-bellied, 31, 120, 175

- Fuller, Chuck, Lesser Goldfinch in Des Moines County, 6

G

- Gadwall, 14, 64, 84, 90, 109, 162
- Gallinule, Common, 18, 113, 164
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 32, 128, 177

- Godwit
Hudsonian, 19, 114, 165
Marbled, 19, 114, 122, 165, 171
- Goldeneye
Barrow's, 62, 66, 139
Common, 16, 66, 84, 91, 111, 162
- Golden-Plover, American, 18-19, 42
113, 164
- Goldfinch
American, 86, 95
European, 143
Lesser, 6, 12, 27, 34, 62, 79, 142
- Goose
Cackling, 13, 64, 84, 90, 109
Canada, 5, 64, 84, 90, 109, 160, 161
Greater White-fronted, 13, 63-64, 84, 90, 108, 161
Ross's, 13, 63, 84, 90, 108, 183
Snow, 13, 63, 84, 90, 108, 161
- Goshawk, Northern, 29, 40, 69, 87, 97, 108, 118
- Grackle
Common, 81, 86, 96, 133, 180
Great-tailed, 36, 81, 122, 133, 180
- Grand Mound, 4-5
- Grebe
Eared, 17, 112, 163
Horned, 16-17, 67, 111-112
Pied-billed, 16, 67, 84, 91, 111, 163
Red-necked, 17, 67, 112, 163
Western, 17, 112, 163
- Green Island, 85, 87, 88-96, 97
- Grinnell, 88-96
- Grosbeak
Blue, 28, 38, 124, 136, 173, 182
Evening, 12, 33, 53-54, 62, 79, 87, 97, 108, 130, 141-142
Evening, Type 1, 53-54, 79
Rose-breasted, 38, 62, 81, 136, 182
- Grouse, Ruffed, 66, 86, 111, 183
- Gull
Bonaparte's, 21, 26, 116, 166
Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull, 108, 116
California, 62, 68, 86, 97, 116, 140
Franklin's, 21-22, 67, 116, 166
Glaucous, 22, 68, 116
Great Black-backed, 12, 22, 62, 68, 108, 117, 140, 142
Herring, 22, 68, 85, 92, 116, 166
Iceland, 22, 68, 85, 97, 108, 116
Laughing, 21, 116, 166
Lesser Black-backed, 22, 68, 85, 97, 116
Little, 12, 21, 108, 116, 139-140
Ring-billed, 67-68, 85, 92, 116, 166
Sabine's, 21, 26, 67
Gyr Falcon, 12, 30, 62, 72, 76, 141
- ## H
- Harms, Tyler, Review of: Pasquier, Roger F., *Birds in winter: Surviving the most challenging season*, 46-47
- Harr, Douglas C., *White-winged Dove in Iowa from 1997 to 2021*, 155-158
- Harrier, Northern, 24, 40, 41, 69, 85, 92, 118, 168
- Hawk
Broad-winged, 29, 40, 41, 119, 143, 169
Cooper's, 29, 40, 41, 43, 62, 69, 75, 85, 92, 118-119, 168
Ferruginous, 29-30, 40, 41, 143
Red-shouldered, 29, 40, 69, 85, 92, 119, 169
Red-tailed, 29, 40, 41, 43, 69-70, 85, 92, 119, 169
Rough-legged, 29, 40, 42, 43, 70, 75, 85, 93, 119
Sharp-shinned, 24, 29, 40, 41, 43, 62, 69, 85, 92, 108, 118
Swainson's, 26, 29, 40, 41, 43, 108, 119, 125, 169
- Hawk banding, 43-44
- Hawk watch, 40-42
- Hawkeye Wildlife Area, 7-8, 55, 150-152
- Heron (*See also* Night-Heron)
Great Blue, 23, 69, 84, 92, 117, 125, 168
Green, 23, 118, 168
Little Blue, 12, 23, 108, 117, 123, 154, 160, 168, 182
- Hester, Dean, *see* Caswell, Brandon and

Hertzfel, Paul, Report of the Records Committee for 2020, 138-144
 Hollis, Rick, Review of: Kricher, John, Peterson reference guide to bird behavior, 145-147
 Hitchcock Nature Center, 40-42, 43-44
 Humboldt County, 88-96
 Hummingbird
 Black-chinned, 142
 Ruby-throated, 18, 25, 112, 163
 Rufous, 18, 25, 139
 Selasphorus sp., 139

I

Ibis
 Glossy, 108, 118, 140-141
 White, 12, 24, 55, 140
 White-faced, 24, 118, 168
 Ida County, 87, 88-96, 97
 Iowa City, 88-96, 97
 Iowa Ornithologists' Union
 Board of Directors meetings, 48-49, 186-187
 Budget report, 50
 Financial report, 50-51, 186
 Records Committee, annual report of, 138-144

J

Jamaica, 88-96
 Jay
 Blue, 85, 94
 Canada, 143
 Jester Park, 53-54
 Johnson County, 7-8, 55, 150-152
 Johnson, Ann, White Ibis in Johnson County, 55
 Johnson, Earl, Hawk watch report, fall 2020, 40-42
 Junco, Dark-eyed, 35, 80, 86, 95, 131

K

Kent, Thomas H., obituary of, 1-4
 Keokuk, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88-96, 97
 Kestrel, American, 26, 30, 40, 72, 76, 85, 93, 171-175
 Killdeer, 19, 67, 85, 92, 114, 164, 172
 Kingbird
 Eastern, 31, 121

 Western, 30, 121, 175
 Kingfisher, Belted, 71, 85, 93, 120, 170
 Kinglet,
 Golden-crowned, 27, 32, 73, 85, 94, 128
 Ruby-crowned, 32, 73, 85, 94, 128
 Kite, Mississippi, 29, 40, 169, 173
 Kittiwake, Black-legged, 108, 116
 Knot, Red, 12, 19, 25
 Kricher, John, Peterson reference guide to bird behavior (review of), 145-147

L

Lamoni, 85, 86, 87, 88-96, 97
 Langan, Connor Patrick, Field reports—spring 2021, 106-139
 Lark, Horned, 42, 62, 72, 77, 86, 94, 128, 176
 Longspur
 Lapland, 34, 42, 62, 78, 79-80, 86, 95, 130
 McCown's (=Long-billed), 143
 Smith's, 130
 Loon
 Common, 23, 68, 86, 117, 167, 171
 Pacific, 22, 68,
 Red-throated, 22, 62, 68
 Yellow-billed, 140, 143
 Lost Nation, 88-96

M

Magpie, Black-billed, 86
 Mahaska County, 153-154
 Mallard, 5, 14, 64, 84, 90, 110, 160
 Mallard x American Black Duck, 97, 108, 110
 Mallard x Northern Pintail, 110
 McCoy, James, Clinton County breeding Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 4-5
 Martin, Purple, 32, 128, 177
 Maskunkya Marsh, 153-154
 Mason City, 85, 88-96
 Meadowlark
 Eastern, 36, 81, 97, 132, 180
 species, 78, 86, 96
 Western, 36, 81, 96, 137, 180
 Merganser
 Common, 16, 66, 75, 84, 91, 111, 162

Hooded, 16, 66, 84, 91, 111, 160, 162
 Red-breasted, 16, 66, 84, 91, 111, 124, 161, 162
 Merlin, 27, 30, 40, 43, 62, 72, 85, 93, 120, 175
 Mockingbird, Northern, 33, 74, 85, 95, 129, 177-178
 Moore, Francis, Field reports—winter 2020-2021, 59-82
 Moorhen, Common, *See* Gallinule, Common
 Muscatine, 83, 88-96

N

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, 83, 88-96, 97
 Nighthawk, Common, 17-18, 112
 Night-Heron
 Black-crowned, 23-24, 118, 160, 168
 Yellow-crowned, 24, 118, 153-154, 168, 172, 185
 Northeast Madison County, 88-96
 North Linn, 88-96
 Northwest Clayton County, 86, 87, 88-96, 97
 Nuthatch
 Red-breasted, 32, 42, 62, 73, 85, 94, 128, 177
 White-breasted, 85, 94

O

Oldsquaw, *See* Duck, Long-tailed
 Ollie, Eric, and Shane Patterson, Iowa's first Swainson's Warbler record, 101-103
 Oriole
 Baltimore, 36, 87, 97, 132,
 Bullock's, 108, 132
 Orchard, 36, 132, 180
 Osprey, 24, 40, 41, 87, 118, 142-143, 168
 Osterhaus, Dylan, Review of: Field notes from an unintentional birder: A memoir, 98-99
 Ovenbird, 36, 133, 180
 Owl, *See also* Screech-owl
 Barn, 30, 169
 Barred, 70, 85, 93, 119, 170
 Burrowing, 141, 142

Great Horned, 70, 85, 93, 119, 123, 169
 Great Horned (subarctic), 58
 Long-eared, 62, 71, 85, 93, 119-120, 170
 Northern Saw-whet, 30, 62, 71, 76, 85, 93, 120
 Short-eared, 30, 62, 71, 85, 93, 120
 Snowy, 62, 70, 76, 87, 97, 108, 119

P

Page County, 157
 Parakeet, Monk, 143
 Partridge, Gray, 12, 16, 61, 66, 85, 91, 111, 163
 Parula, Northern, 37, 126, 134, 181
 Pasquier, Roger, Birds in winter: surviving the most challenging season (review of), 46-47
 Patterson, Shane, *see* Ollie, Eric, and
 Pelican, American White, 23, 61, 68-69, 84, 92, 117, 167
 Pewee, *See* Wood-Pewee
 Phalarope
 Red, 12, 21 139
 Red-necked, 21, 25, 115
 Wilson's, 21, 115, 166
 Pheasant, Ring-necked, 16, 66-67, 85, 91, 111, 147, 160, 163
 Phoebe, Eastern, 31, 121, 176
 Pigeon, Rock, 91
 Pintail, Northern, 14, 64-65, 84, 90 110, 124, 162
 Pipit, American, 33, 42, 79, 130
 Plover, *See also* Golden-Plover
 Black-bellied, 18, 113
 Piping, 19, 108, 113-114, 165
 Semipalmated, 19, 113, 126, 164
 Snowy, 138, 139
 Polk County, 53-54
 Pottawattamie County, 40-42, 43-44
 Prairie-Chicken, Greater, 111, 161, 163
 Princeton, 88-96

R

Rail
 King, 18, 108, 112, 124, 160, 163

Virginia, 18, 67, 87, 97, 112-113, 163
 Yellow, 18
 Rathbun Reservoir, 88-96, 97
 Raven, Common, 32, 141
 Records Committee, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
 Redhead, 14-15, 65, 84, 91, 110, 162
 Redpoll, Common, 12, 27, 34, 42, 62, 79, 86, 95, 130
 Red Rock Reservoir, 83, 84, 86, 88-96, 97
 Redstart, American, 37, 134
 Robin, American, 33, 74, 85, 94, 129
 Rudolph, Linda, biography of, 8-9
 Ruff, 139, 142
 Rundquist, Maria, biography of, 104-105
 Rundquist, Rex, biography of, 104-105

S

Sac County, 88-96
 Sanderling, 19, 114, 165
 Sandpiper
 Baird's, 19-20, 114, 165
 Buff-breasted, 20, 115, 165
 Least, 20, 25, 67, 114, 165
 Pectoral, 20, 115, 165
 Semipalmated, 20, 25, 115, 165, 172
 Solitary, 21, 115, 166
 Spotted, 21, 115, 166
 Stilt, 19, 114, 165
 Upland, 19, 114, 165, 171
 Western, 20, 115, 166, 172
 White-rumped, 20, 114, 165
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied, 30, 71, 85, 93, 120, 170
 Saylorville Reservoir, 83, 86, 88-96, 97
 Scaup
 Greater, 15, 65, 84, 91, 110
 Lesser, 15, 65, 84, 91, 110, 162
 Scoter
 Black, 15-16, 65, 84, 97, 111
 Surf, 15, 65, 75, 84, 97, 110, 162
 White-winged, 15, 65, 86, 110-111
 Screech-Owl, Eastern, 70, 76, 85, 93, 119, 169, 173
Selasphorus species, 139
 Sheldahl, 58

Shenandoah, 157
 Shoveler, Northern, 14, 64, 84, 90, 109, 161-162
 Shrike
 Loggerhead, 31, 72, 85, 97, 121, 176
 Northern, 31, 42, 62, 72, 78, 85, 93, 121-122
 Silcock, W. Ross, Review of: Dinsmore, Stephen J. and Bruce L. Ehresman, Iowa breeding bird atlas II, 44-46
 Sioux City, 88-96, 97
 Siskin, Pine, 12, 27, 34, 42, 62, 77, 78, 79, 86, 95, 130, 178
 Skrade, Paul, Field reports—summer 2021, 159-185
 Snipe, Wilson's, 21, 67, 85, 92, 115, 166
 Solitaire, Townsend's, 74, 87, 97, 108, 129
 Sora, 18, 113, 163-164
 Southeast Clayton County, 88-96, 97
 Southeast Webster County, 88-96
 Sparkman, Stuart,
 Meet an Iowa birder: Linda Rudolph, 8-9
 Meet an Iowa birder: Mark Brown, 56-57
 Meet two Iowa birders: Rex and Maria Rundquist, 104-105
 Sparrow
 American Tree, 34-35, 80, 86, 95, 130
 Chipping, 34, 80, 87, 97, 130
 Clay-colored, 34, 42, 130, 178
 Eurasian Tree, 33, 62, 74, 86, 95, 129, 178
 Field, 34, 80, 86, 97, 130, 179
 Fox, 34, 80, 86, 95, 130-131
 Grasshopper, 34, 130, 173, 178
 Harris's, 35, 78, 80, 86, 95, 131
 Henslow's, 35, 131, 173, 179
 House, 86, 95
 House x Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 86, 97, 108, 129-130, 178
 Lark, 34, 130, 178
 LeConte's, 28, 35, 80, 86, 131
 Lincoln's, 35, 80, 86, 97, 126, 131

Nelson's, 35, 42, 108, 131
 Savannah, 35, 80, 86, 96, 131, 179
 Song, 35, 78, 80, 86, 96, 131
 Swamp, 35, 78, 80-81, 96, 131, 179
 Vesper, 35, 80, 131, 179
 White-crowned, 35, 80, 86, 95, 131
 White-throated, 35, 80, 86, 95, 131, 161, 179
 Spirit Lake, 84, 88-96, 97
 Spoonbill, Roseate, 7-8, 12, 24, 141
 Starling, European, 86, 95
 Stilt, Black-necked, 18, 113, 150-152, 164, 171
 Story County, 58, 101-103
 Swallow
 Bank, 32, 128, 177
 Barn, 32, 128
 Cliff, 32, 128, 177
 Northern Rough-winged, 32, 128, 177
 Tree, 32, 128
 Swan
 Mute, 64, 84, 97, 161
 Trumpeter, 13, 64, 84, 90, 109, 161
 Tundra, 13, 64, 84, 90, 109
 Swift, Chimney, 18, 112

T

Tanager
 Scarlet, 38, 62, 82, 136, 182
 Summer, 38, 62, 135-136, 182
 Western, 12, 38, 82, 108, 136, 142
 Teal
 Blue-winged, 5, 13-14, 64, 86, 97, 109, 161
 Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal, 108, 109
 Blue-winged x Green-winged Teal, 108, 110
 Blue-winged x Northern Shoveler, 108, 109
 Cinnamon x Northern Shoveler, 108, 109
 Green-winged, 14, 65, 84, 90, 110, 162

Tern

Black, 22, 117, 167
 Caspian, 22, 117, 167
 Common, 22, 117
 Forster's, 22, 26, 117, 167
 Least, 22, 117, 166-167

Thrasher

Brown, 33, 74, 86, 97, 129
 Sage, 141

Thrush

Gray-cheeked, 27, 32, 123, 129
 Hermit, 33, 74, 86, 94, 129
 Swainson's, 32-33, 74, 129
 Varied, 33, 62, 79, 141
 Wood, 33, 129, 178

Titmouse, Tufted, 73, 85, 94, 176

Toll, Jerry, Raptor banding at Hitchcock Nature Center, 43-44

Towhee

Eastern, 35, 81, 86, 97, 131-132, 179
 Spotted, 35, 42, 62, 81, 86, 96, 131, 179
 Spotted x Eastern Towhee, 179

Treasurer's Report, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Turkey, Wild, 66, 85, 91, 111

Turnstone, Ruddy, 19, 114, 124, 165

U

Union County, 83, 84, 88-96, 97
 Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, 87, 88-96, 97

V

Veery, 32, 129, 178

Vireo

Bell's, 31, 121, 176
 Blue-headed, 31, 121
 Philadelphia, 31-32, 121
 Red-eyed, 32, 121, 174
 Warbling, 32, 121
 White-eyed, 27, 31, 76, 121, 176
 Yellow-throated, 31, 121, 176

Viste-Sparkman, Karen, Letter from the Editor, 149

Vulture

Black, 40
 Turkey, 24, 40, 41, 69, 86, 97, 118, 168

W

Warbler

- Bay-breasted, 38, 127, 134-135
 - Black-and-white, 37, 133, 181
 - Blackburnian, 37, 38, 122, 135
 - Blackpoll, 38, 135
 - Black-throated Blue, 38, 135
 - Black-throated Green, 38, 136, 182
 - Blue-winged, 36-37, 133, 180-181
 - Canada, 38, 136
 - Cape May, 37, 134
 - Cerulean, 37, 134, 181
 - Chestnut-sided, 38, 135, 181
 - Connecticut, 134
 - Golden-winged, 36, 133
 - Hooded, 37, 127, 134, 173, 181
 - Kentucky, 37, 134, 181
 - Magnolia, 37, 126, 134
 - Mourning, 37, 134
 - Nashville, 37, 134
 - Orange-crowned, 37, 133-134
 - Palm, 38, 87, 97, 135, 181
 - Pine, 38, 135, 181
 - Prairie, 108, 135-136, 142, 183
 - Prothonotary, 37, 133, 181
 - Swainson's, 101-103, 108, 133
 - Tennessee, 37, 133
 - Wilson's, 28, 38, 136
 - Worm-eating, 133, 180
 - Yellow, 38, 135
 - Yellow-rumped, 28, 38, 86, 96, 135, 181
 - Yellow-throated, 135, 181-182
- Waterloo, *See* Cedar Falls,
- Waterthrush
- Louisiana, 36, 127, 133, 180
 - Northern, 36, 133
- Waxwing, Cedar, 33, 77, 86, 95, 129, 177
- Westfield, 87, 88-96, 97
- West Mercer County, Illinois, 84, 88-96, 97

Whimbrel, 19, 114, 165

Whip-poor-will, Eastern, 18, 112, 163

Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied, 4-5, 12, 13, 108, 138-139, 160-161

Wigeon

American, 14, 64, 84, 90, 109-110, 162

European, 108, 109

Will, Clayton

Subarctic Great Horned Owl, 58

_____ and Tom Dougherty, Type 1
Evening Grosbeak in Iowa, 53-54

Willet, 21, 115-116, 166

Woodcock, American, 21, 115, 123, 166

Woodpecker

Downy, 85, 93, 170

Hairy, 71, 85, 93, 170

Pileated, 30, 72, 85, 93, 120, 175

Red-bellied, 71, 85, 93, 170

Red-headed, 30, 71, 85, 93, 170

Wood-Pewee, Eastern, 31, 120, 175

Worth County, 88-96

Wren

Bewick's, 129, 177

Carolina, 73, 85, 94, 129, 177

House, 32, 128

Marsh, 32, 87, 97, 128-129, 177

Sedge, 32, 73, 87, 97, 128, 174, 177

Winter, 32, 73, 77, 85, 94, 128

Y

Yellowlegs

Greater, 21, 115, 166

Lesser, 21, 116, 166

Yellow River Forest, 86, 88-96, 97

Yellowthroat, Common, 37, 81, 87, 97, 134, 174

Z

Zarankin, Julia, Field notes from an unintentional birder (review of), 98-99

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BACK COVER PHOTO: Little Blue Herons, Maskunkya Marsh, *Mahaska*, 18 July 2021. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

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CONTENTS

Letter from the Editor by <i>Karen Viste-Sparkman</i>	149
Iowa's First Successful Nesting Record of Black-necked Stilt by <i>Brandon Caswell</i>	150
Mighty Maskuny Marsh and the Visiting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons by <i>Diane Crookham-Johnson</i>	153
White-winged Doves in Iowa: Records from 1997 to 2021 by <i>Douglas C. Harr</i>	155
Field Reports—Summer 2021 by <i>Paul Skrade</i>	159
Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2021 Board Meeting by <i>Katie Byerly</i>	186
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> by <i>James J. Dinsmore</i>	188
Index by <i>James J. Dinsmore</i>	189